UNIVERSITY OF

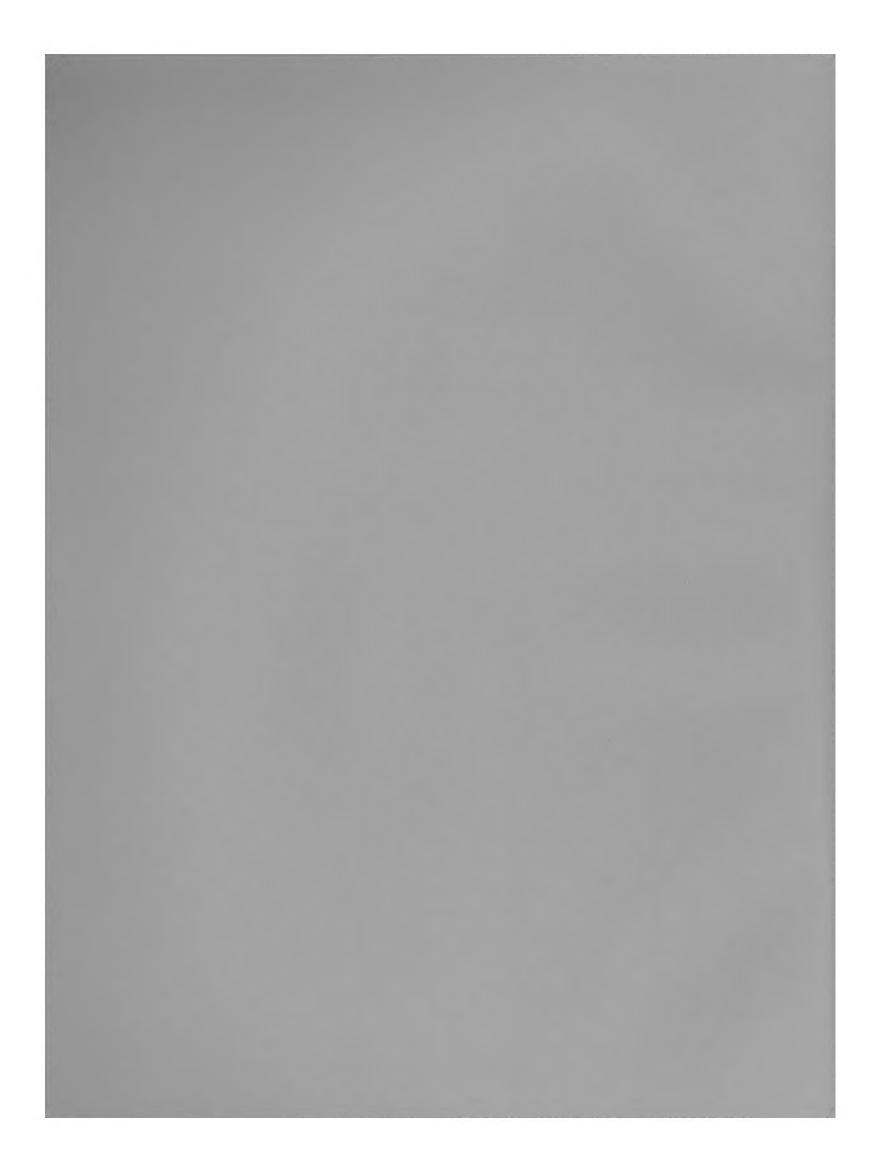
ALBERTA



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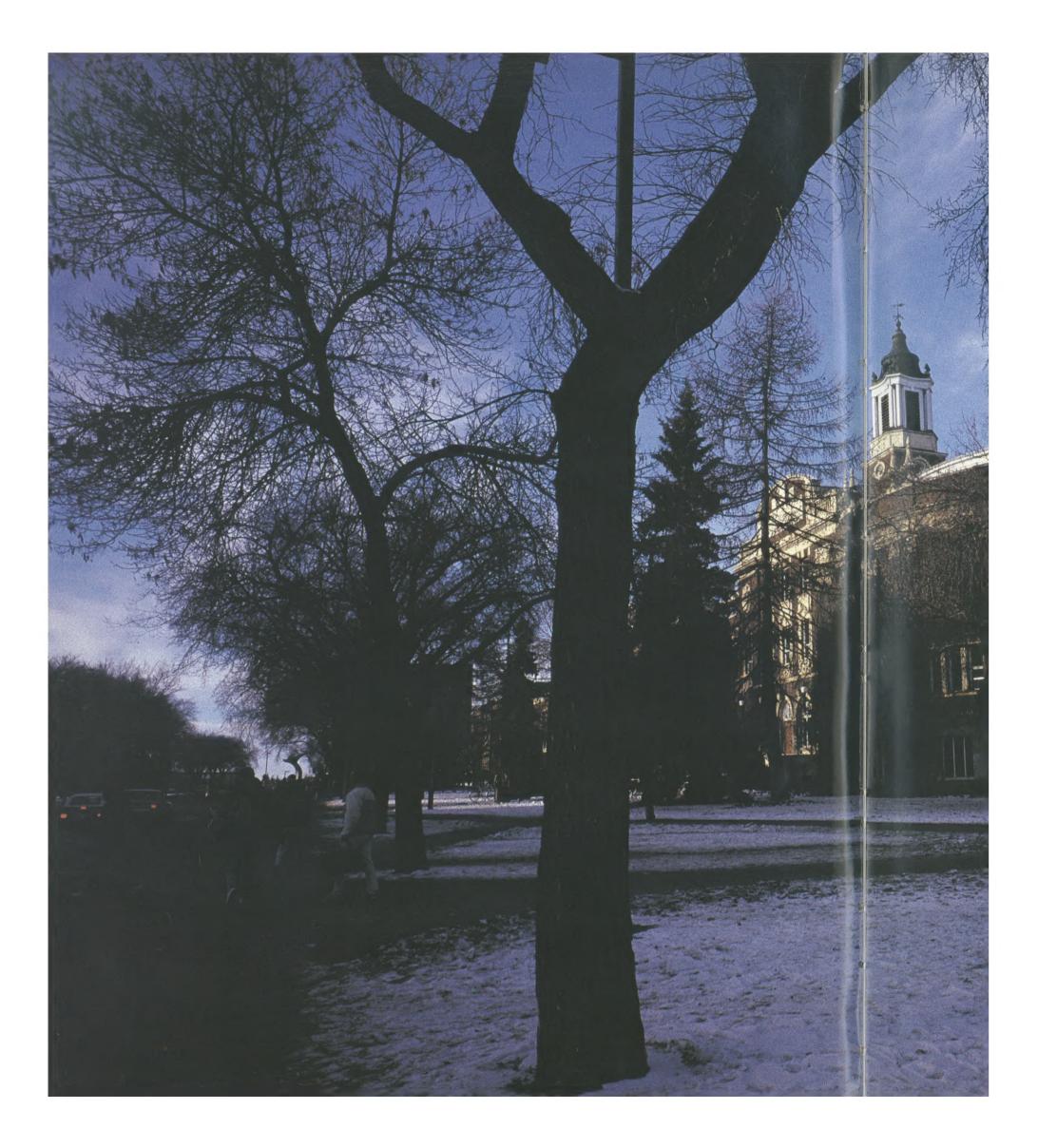


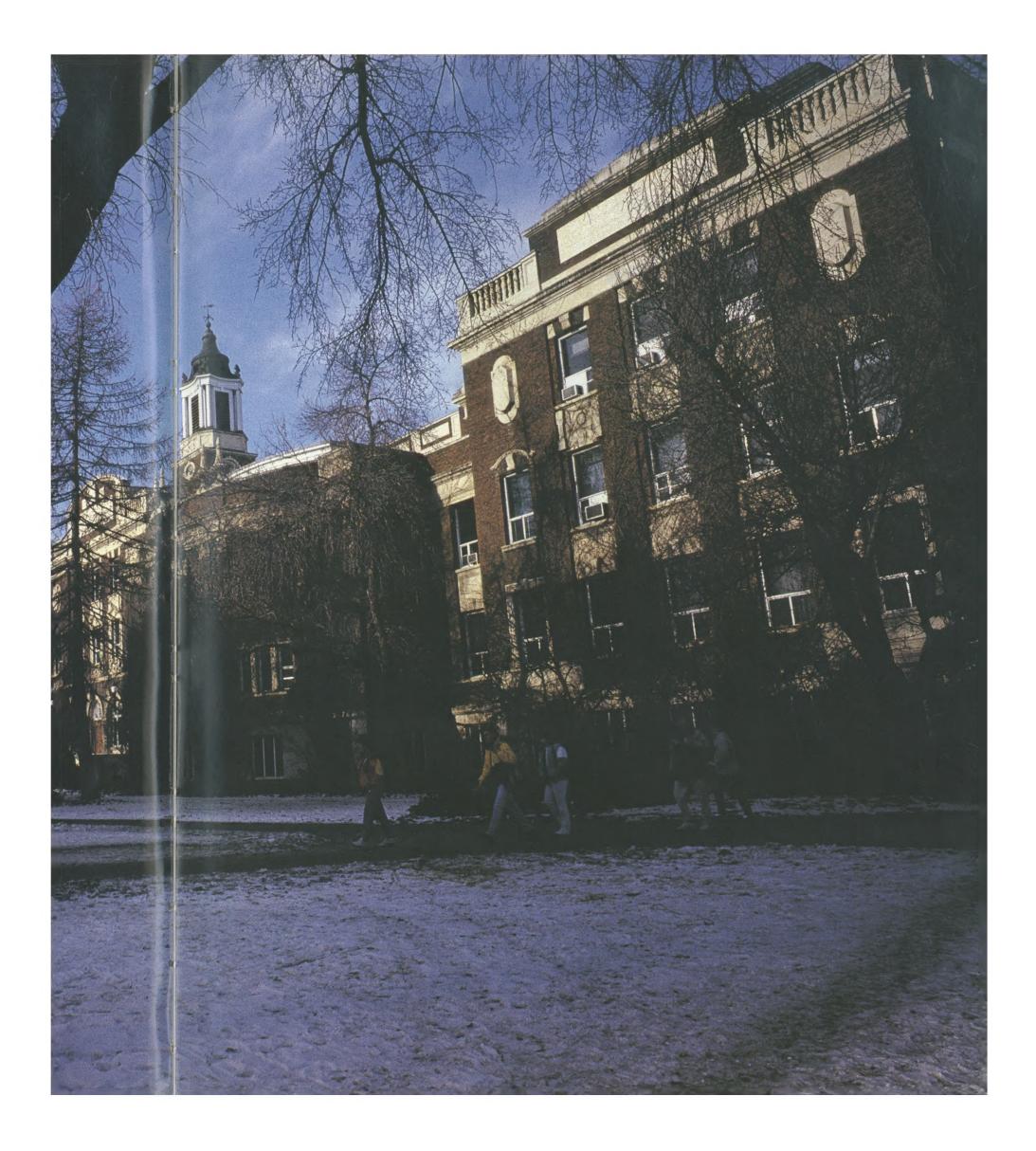
Athabasca Hall, 1911

We were a small, light-hearted company, hardly more than a score of us; and all of us were young. We lived in a clearing in the poplar bush on the south bank of the North Saskatchewan River. On the sloping sides of the great valley and on the flats below the coyotes barked and howled at night, but on top of the bank we taught mathematics and physics, Greek and history, English Literature, and biology. Along with some four hundred students and two red brick buildings, we were the University of Alberta; and we felt sure that the future belonged to us, not to the coyotes.

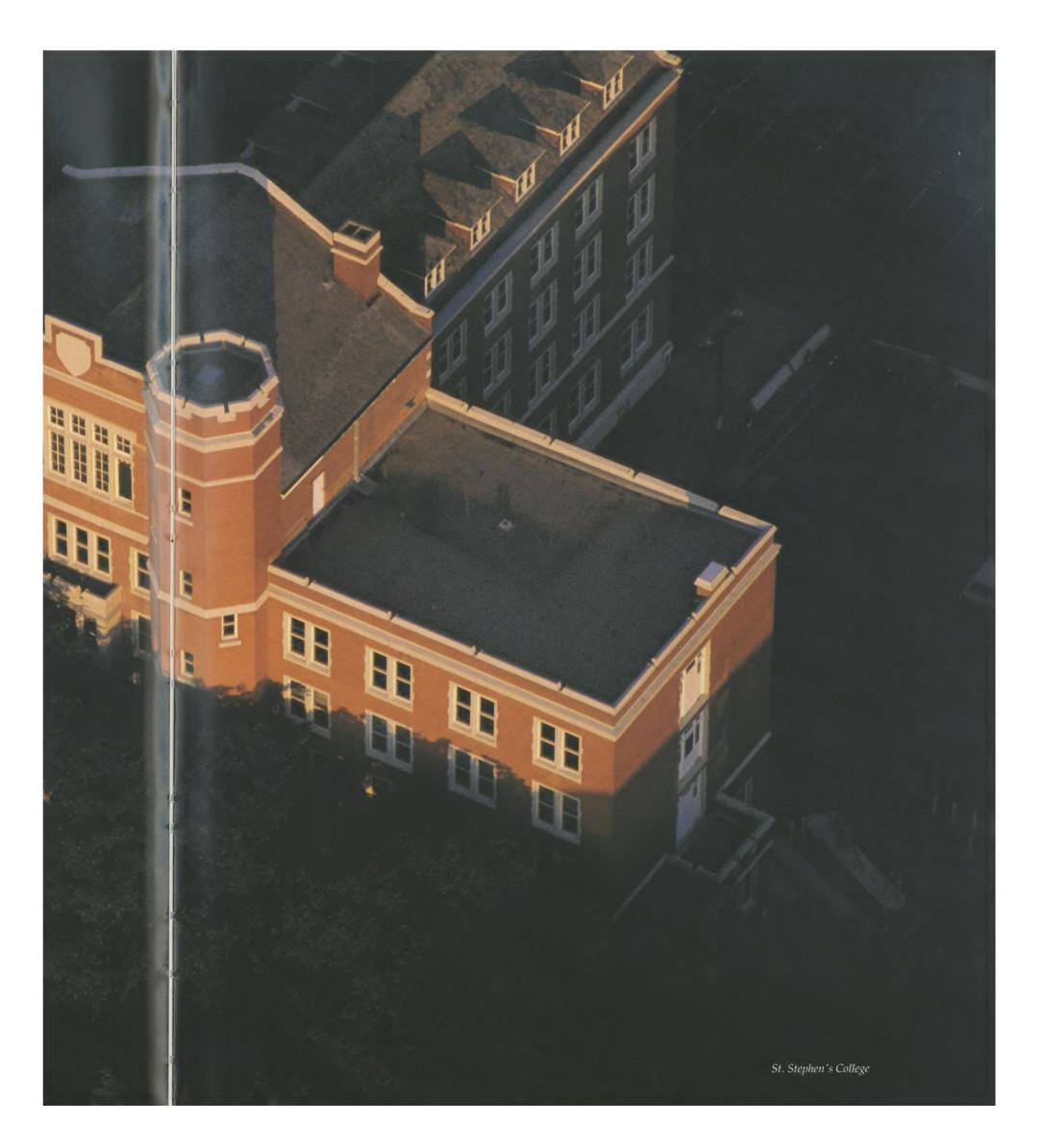
R.K. Gordon

"University Beginnings in Alberta," New Trail, Spring, 1952





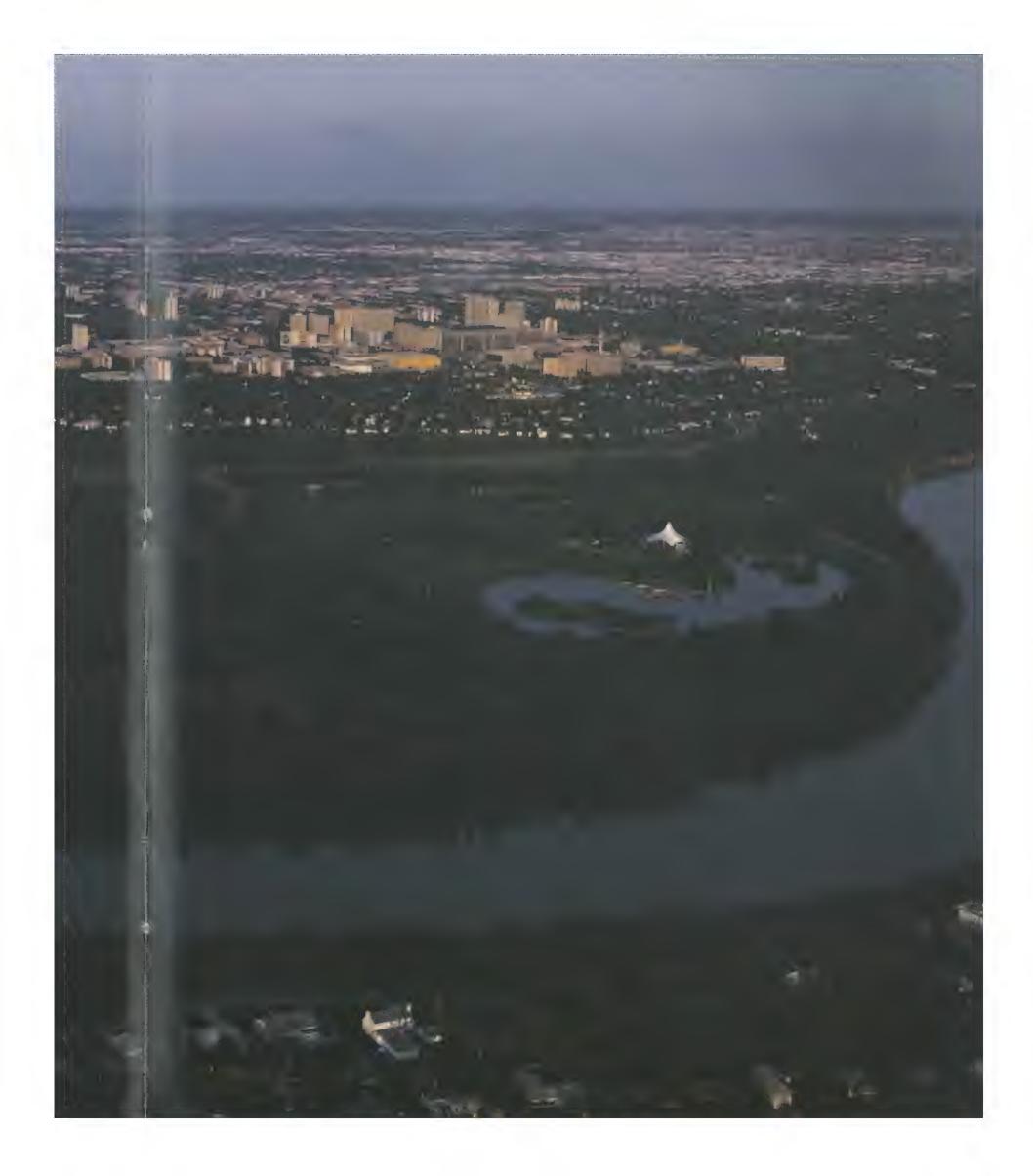


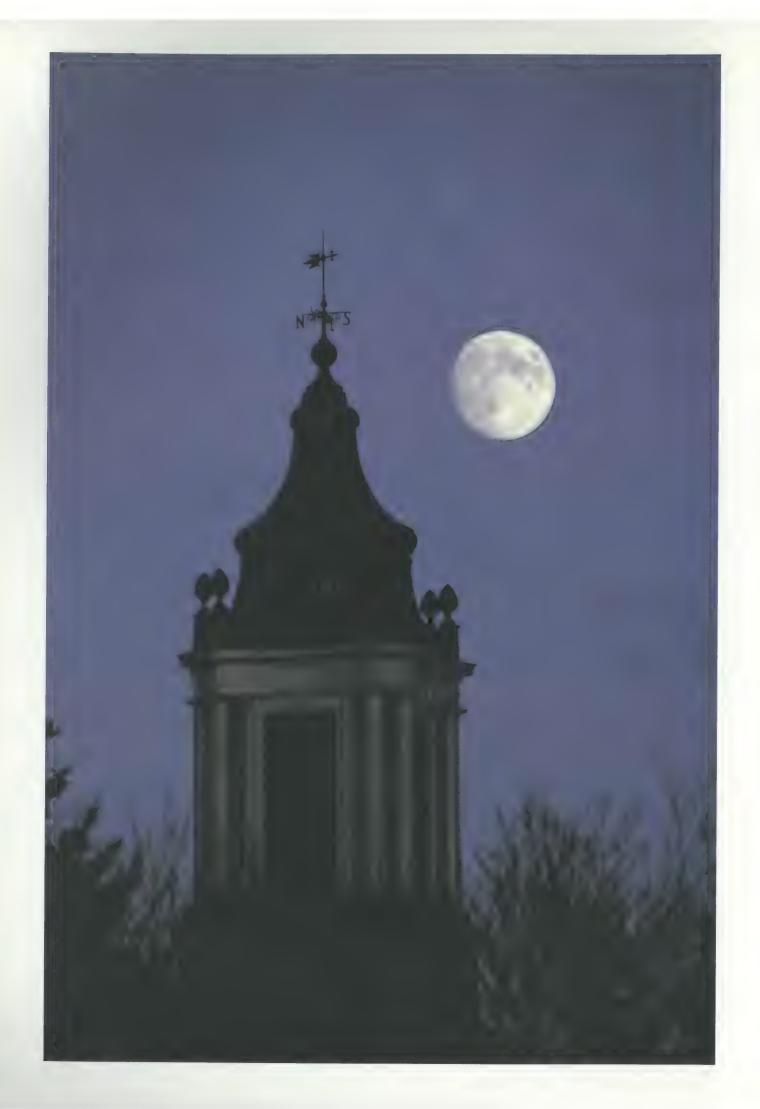














Photography by Phil Schofield

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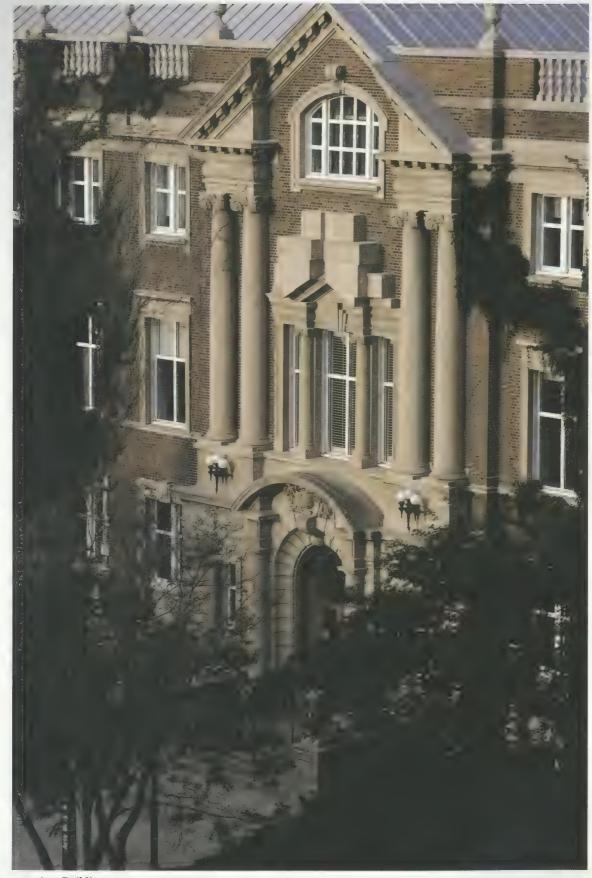
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Black-and-white historical photographs are courtesy of the University of Alberta Archives.



Peace Dove, the Universiade '83 Flame Tower



Arts Building

INTRODUCTION

"... No other institution created by human beings is so uniquely placed to link the present with the past and with the future. The idea of the University must therefore endure. In one hundred years, in two hundred years, the University of Alberta will still be here, and the North Saskatchewan River will flow swiftly by." Dr. Henry Kreisel Report to Convocation, 1975

In the northernmost reach of Banff National Park melting glaciers and streams fed by seasonal snow and rain give birth to a river: the North Saskatchewan.

Leaving the Rockies, the river winds its way eastward across the continent. About 350 kilometers downstream from its birthplace the river encounters Edmonton, capital of the Province of Alberta and is embraced by the prairie city. Here, high on the southern heights of the city's beautiful river valley is situated the University of Alberta, for more than three quarters of a century a witness to the river's journey. During that time the seemingly ever-changing river has changed but little as the University has grown from its modest beginnings to become one of Canada's major centres of learning.

In the fall the river bank below the campus is at its most splendid, the constancy of the evergreens contrasting gloriously with the autumn gold of the intermixed aspen. With this wonderful display of nature the University of Alberta is profoundly linked. From it came inspiration for the University's colors, green and gold. Green for verdant prairies and deep spruce forests, for renewal, hope and optimism. Gold for golden harvest and the warmth of sunshine, for maturity and the shining light of knowledge.

The University of Alberta was created by legislation passed in 1906 during the first sitting of the province's legislature. The new institution's first classes were held in the fall of 1908 in borrowed quarters, and in 1911 the fledgling university moved to its own home, River Lot Number Five overlooking the river.

A watercolor rendering which dates back to that time gives a glimpse of the aspirations for the new university. The painting shows an Oxford or Cambridge of the prairies: dignified edifices of red brick and white stone marshalled on either side of a spacious grass quadrangle. In the background flows the North Saskatchewan.

Despite the pressures of three quarters of a century the central grass square remains, but only a handful of the buildings which



President Tory (seated, fourth from left) and faculty, 1913-14

crowd around the Quad are of the original red brick. The others reflect a variety of circumstances in their exterior presentations, which include faces of precast concrete, reflective glass, enamelled steel, and brick in a multitude of hues. While there are those who lament the loss of the coherence embodied in the red-brick vision, the present architectural diversity radiates a certain vitality. Not, perhaps, unlike the vitality that the University gains from the bringing together of people of widely divergent backgrounds and talents to contribute to its search for "whatsoever things are true."

People, faculty, staff, students, graduates and friends are the heart and soul of any university. The brick and mortar (or precast concrete or enamelled steel) are merely the institutional skin. Life and strength are provided by the people who came together beneath that skin. And if the University of Alberta has been in any way blessed, it is in the quality of the men and women who have made its cause their cause.

This fortuity began with the University's coming into being, with those two remarkable pioneers, Alexander Rutherford and Henry Marshall Tory. The University was, and in many ways remains, a dream they shared. A dream to which they gave life.

Ontario-born and educated in law, Alexander Cameron Rutherford championed the founding of the University. The first premier of the province and later chancellor of the University, he was undeterred by those who scoffed at the idea of founding an institution of higher learning in a community "beyond the last fringes of civilization." He foresaw the tremendous contributions which the University would make to the development of the young province. And he brought Tory to Alberta to be the University's first president.

Born in Nova Scotia, Henry Marshall Tory became a giant in furthering the Canadian pursuit of knowledge. A man of tremendous accomplishments, he had already contributed to the founding of the University of British Columbia (originally McGill College West) before he gave up his faculty appointment at McGill to come to Alberta. In the 18 years of his Alberta presidency he set the University surely on its course. When he left Alberta in 1926 it was to take charge of the newly established National Research Council; following his retirement from NRC he was a founder and the first president of Ottawa's Carleton University.

Memories of Rutherford and Tory have now faded — references to the Rutherford Library or the Tory Building rarely recall the men behind the names — but their influence remains, evident most clearly in the commitment to excellence which guides the men and women who have taken up their dream and passed it on to succeeding generations. That dream has prospered and, like the river which flows beneath the campus, the apparently ever-changing university has in the most profound ways changed very little.

But it has certainly grown. There are 18 faculties (in one of which the language of instruction is French) occupying more than 35 major buildings and making use of numerous off-campus research facilities, some as far away as the West Coast. During a typical weekday during winter sessions as many as 30,000 people come onto campus. In 1912, the year that the University's first class graduated, the population of the entire city of Edmonton was less than twice that (53,000).

For the University's first graduates, campus life revolved around Athabasca and Pembina Halls and the Arts Building. Now restored, these buildings continue to serve the University, but in the shadows of the larger structures of a later day. There are students who now complete a degree without having entered any of the three. The Tuck Shop, Hot Caf and other meeting places of an earlier day are gone. Following classes, students now gravitate toward CAB, HUB, or SUB (not the original Student's Union Building, which is now University Hall, but a much larger facility) or the North Power Plant, no longer a source of steam and power but a social and administrative centre for the graduate students who today form an increasingly larger percentage of the student body.

More fundamental than the many changes, however, are those things that haven't changed with the University's march toward a new century. There is the whirl of the seasons: the quickening of autumn which brings a return to classes, the perfect cold of the winter campus in the darkness before the day's first classes, the welcome release of spring. Each year a new generation of students discovers for itself the excitement of entry into the world of the university with its new possibilities, new relationships and struggle for new understandings. There remains the joy of discovery and of growth.

And each autumn the green and gold of the river valley signals the beginning of a new cycle in the life of the University. As it has for more than three quarters of a century, the campus bustles with the return to classes, and in the valley below the North Saskatchewan swiftly flows by.



The University's first graduating class, 1912



Pembinites, 1920



Site of the Arts Building, 1912

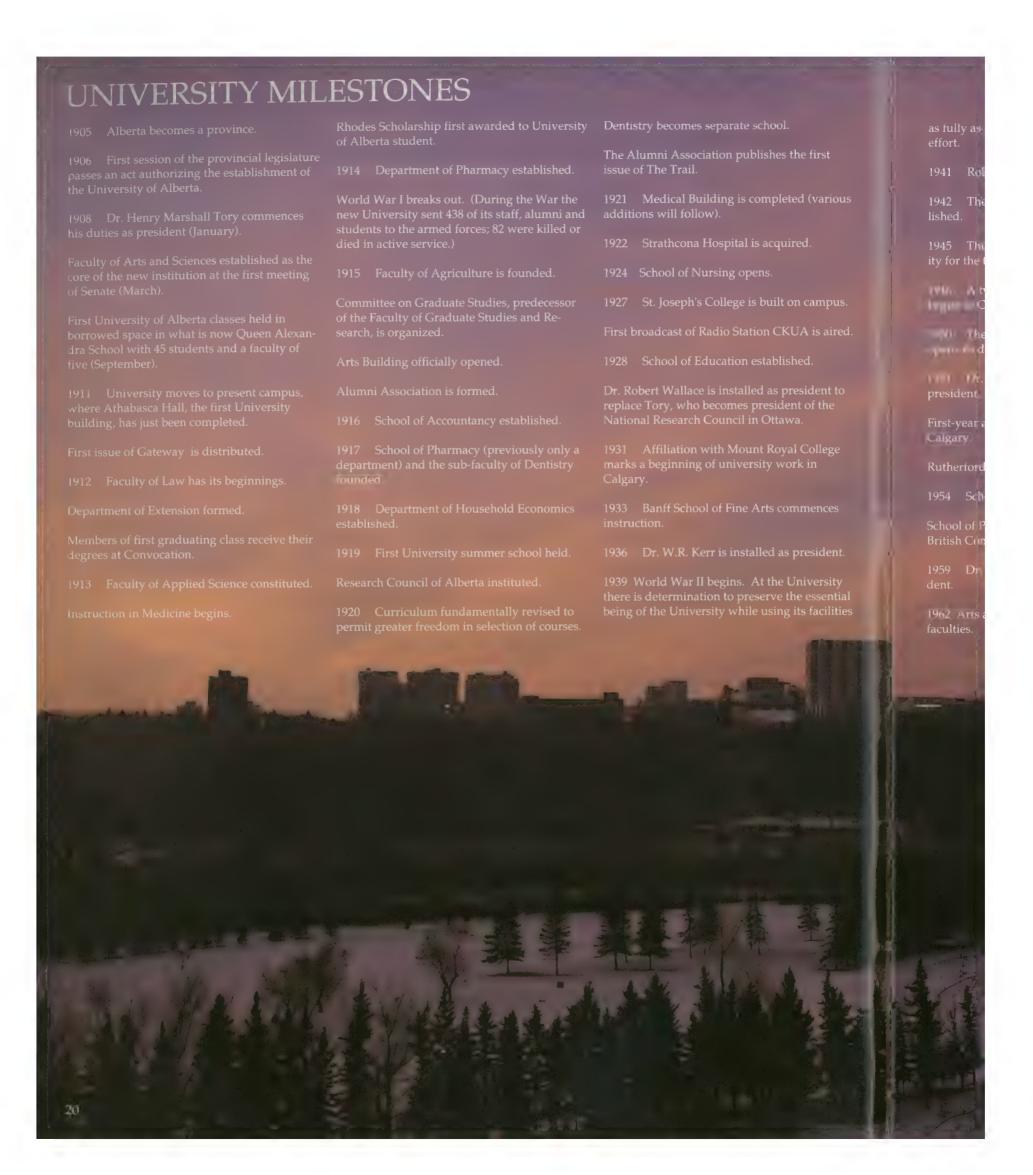


Ground-breaking for the Arts Building, 1910

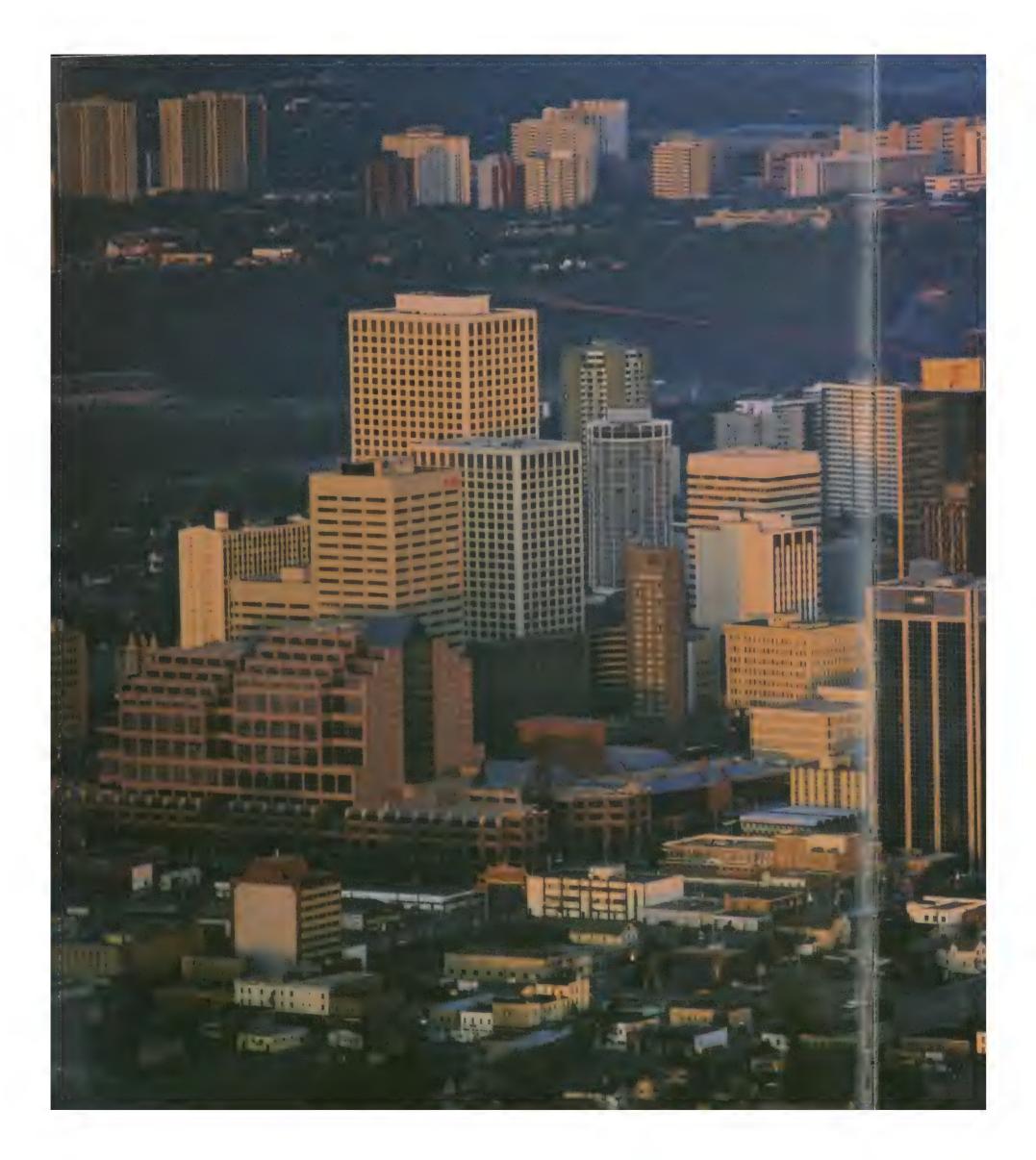


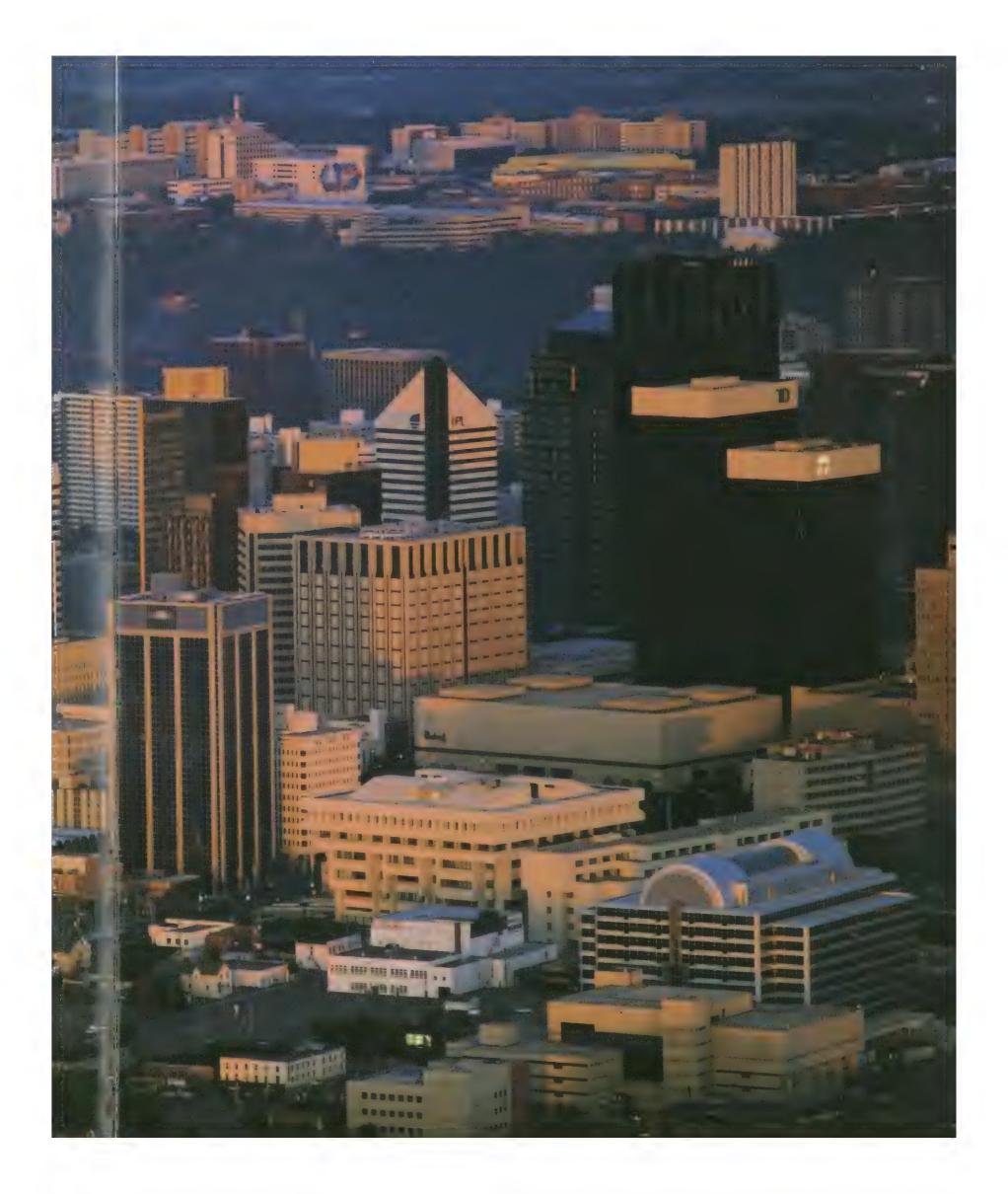


An aerial view of the University, 1926



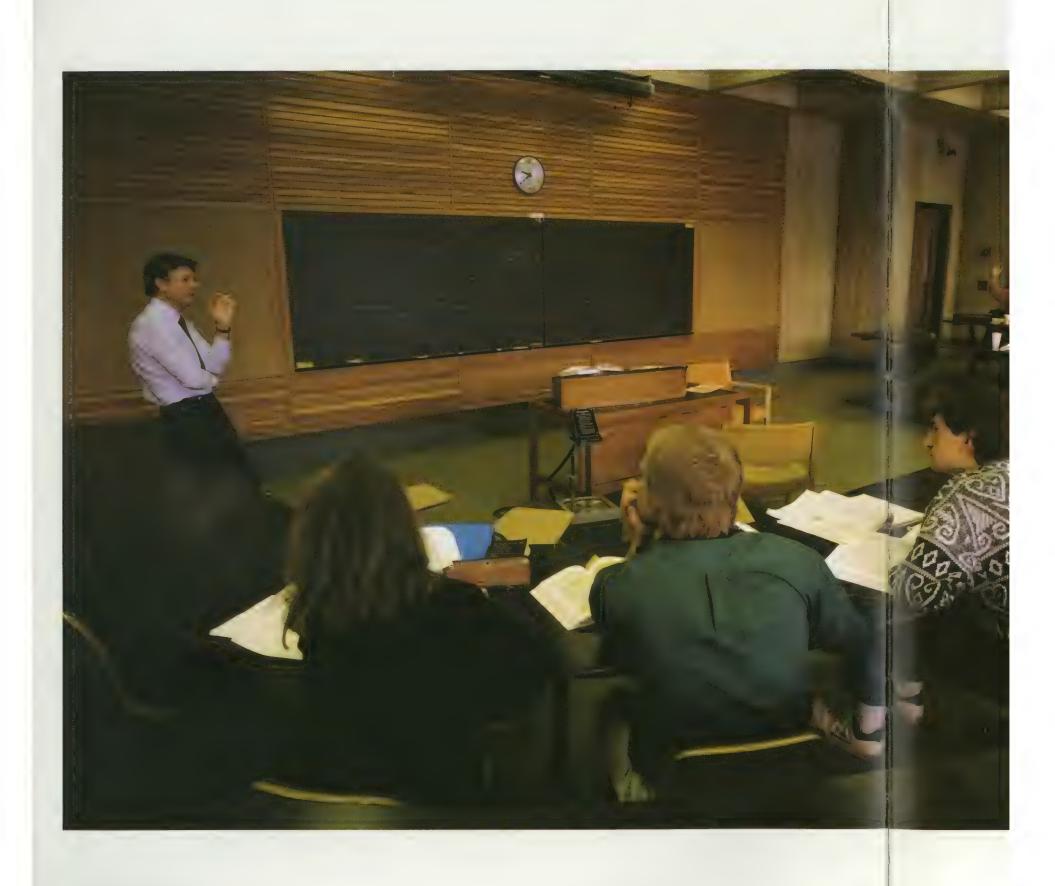
University by the Defense Research Board and installed in the Nuclear Research Centre. Union Building), which was designed and 1963 Department of Computing Science is 1974 Dr. Harry E. Gunning is installed as 1965 Nine-point grading system is instituted. same time the junior college in Lethbridge, which had been affiliated with the University The University and the city of Edmonton host 1984 General Faculties Council gives its approval to a School of Native Studies. 1970 College Saint-Jean in South Edmonton With the Walter Johns is installed as presi-

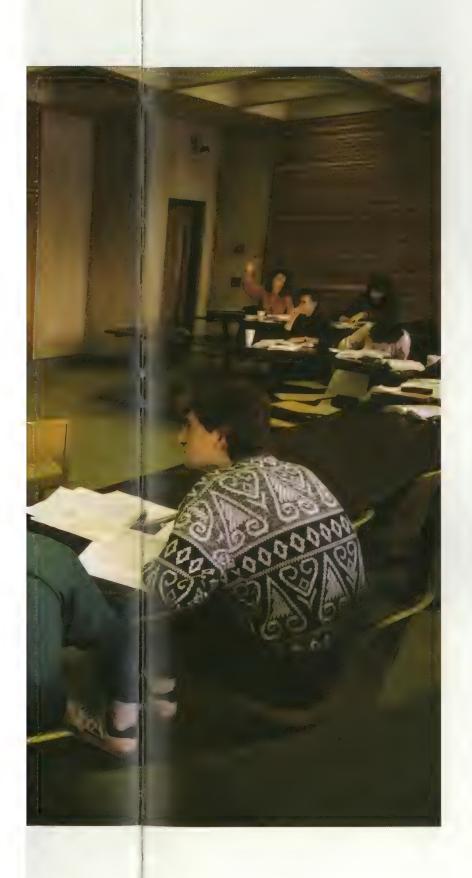


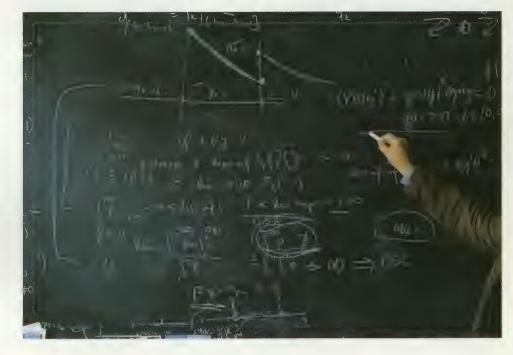










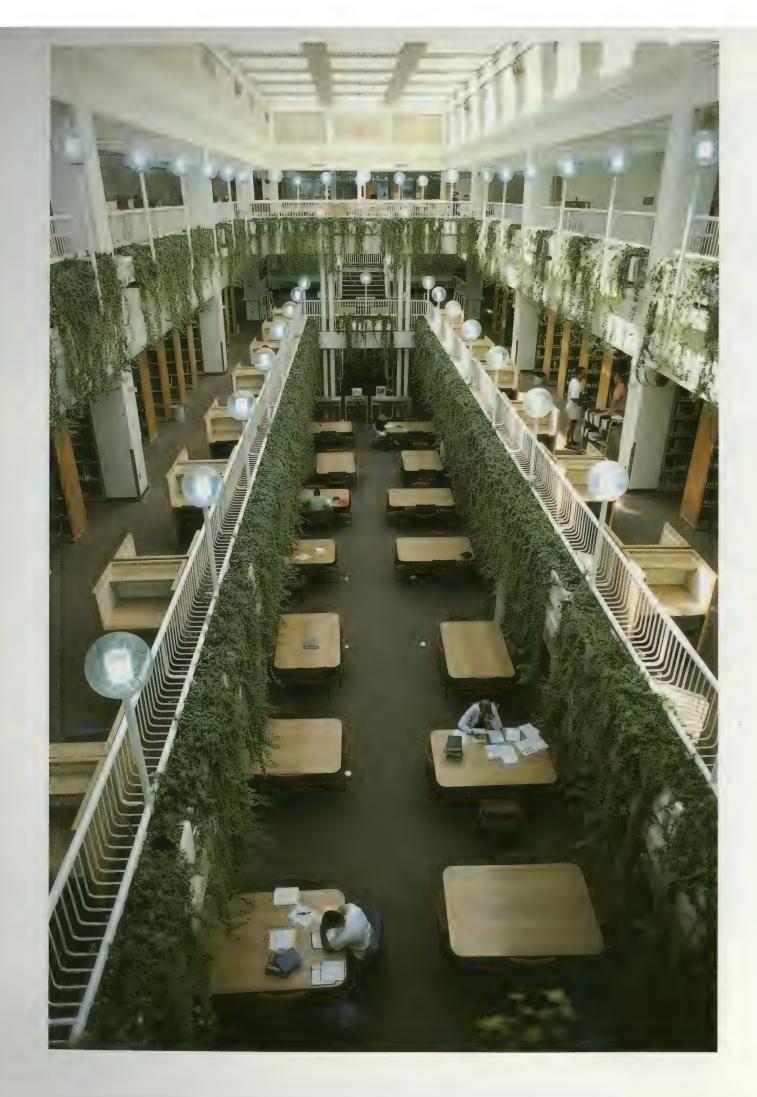








Students Writing Exams, 1946



The establishment and organization of a university is a great work in which only few can participate. We are not called upon, fortunately, to re-organize some old, disrupted institution, but we are laying the foundation of a university which will be for the benefit and upbuilding of the province as a whole. We can congratulate ourselves on the fact that we are not called upon to deal with religious strifes of any nature, but are starting the work as a united body.

We ought to realize that we cannot cut loose from tradition. We must use tradition as a guide, and take from it the best that it contains as a lead for us in our work.

Dr. Henry Marshall Tory, March 30, 1908



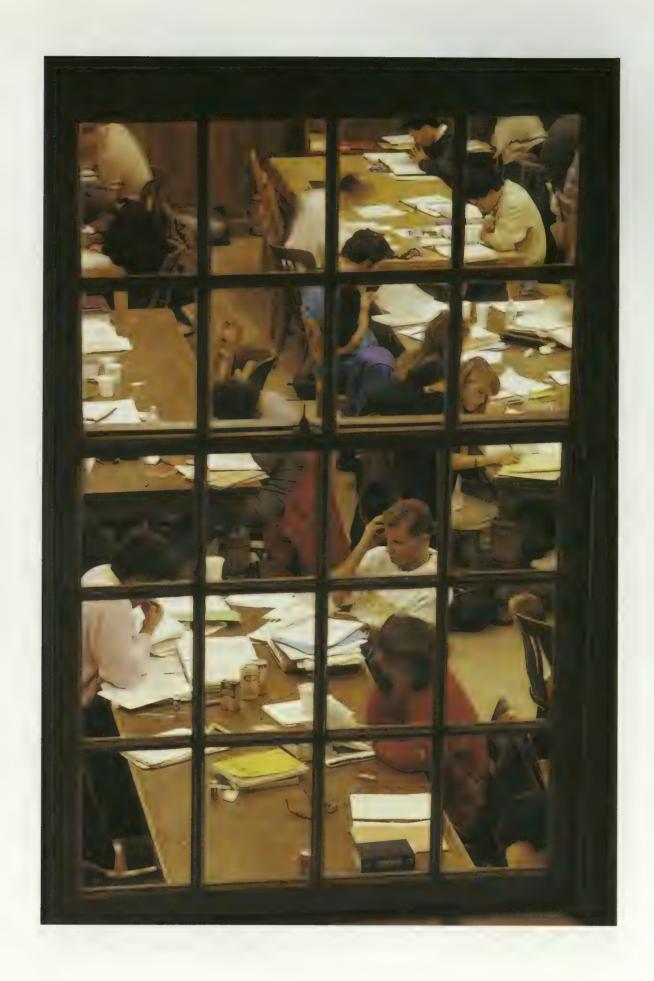




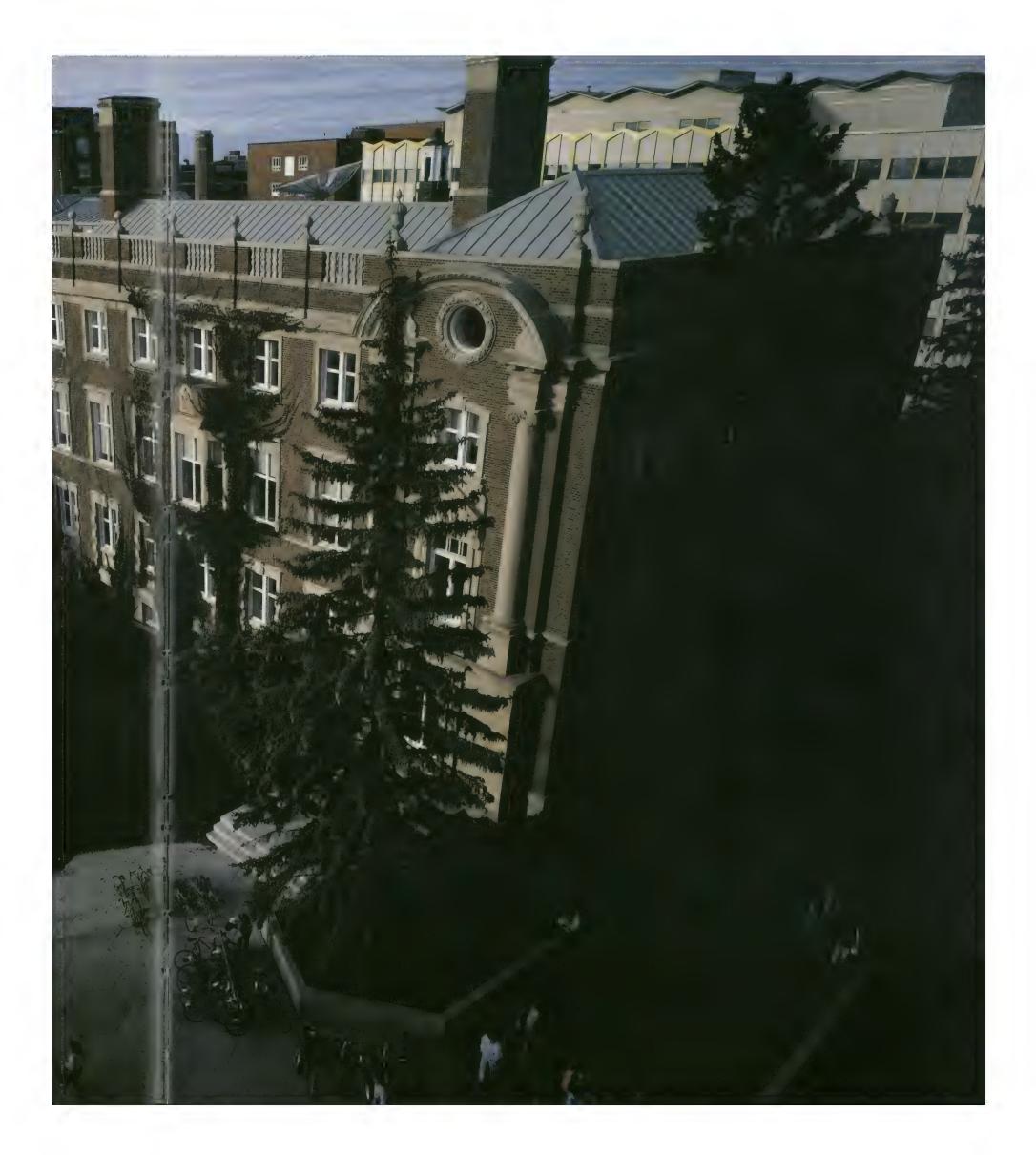
When all is examined and all the reports are written, it will become clear all over again that we make our unique contribution when we become truly distinctive for the quality of the learning experience for our students and for the level of excellence of the research we do. We serve society well when our graduates leave us with a rich and vigorous general education that helps them to become sensitive to the problems of society and appreciative of a myriad of cultural possibilities. And we serve society well when we are involved in the exploration of the frontiers of knowledge in many fields.

President Myer Horowitz, August 1979

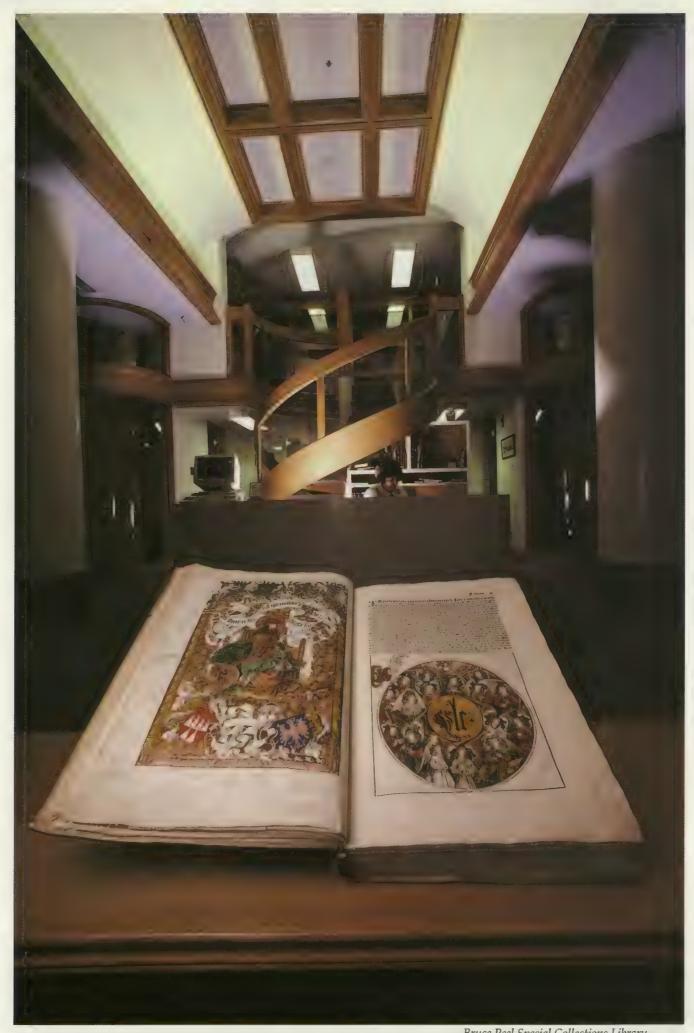












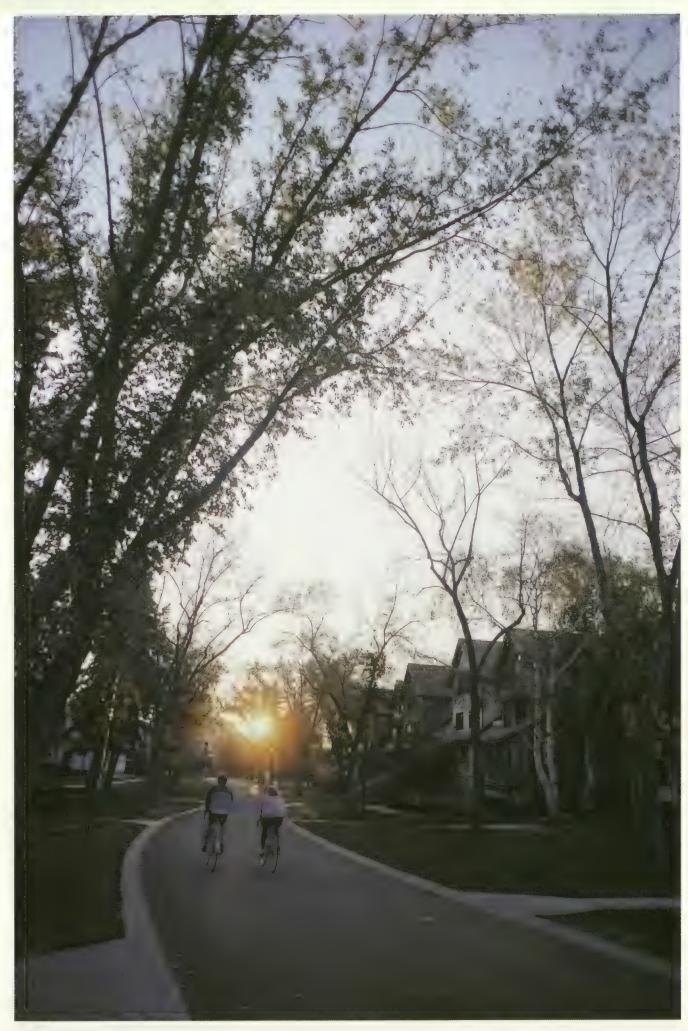
Bruce Peel Special Collections Library



Humanities Centre



Civil-Electrical Engineering Building



North Garneau Student Housing





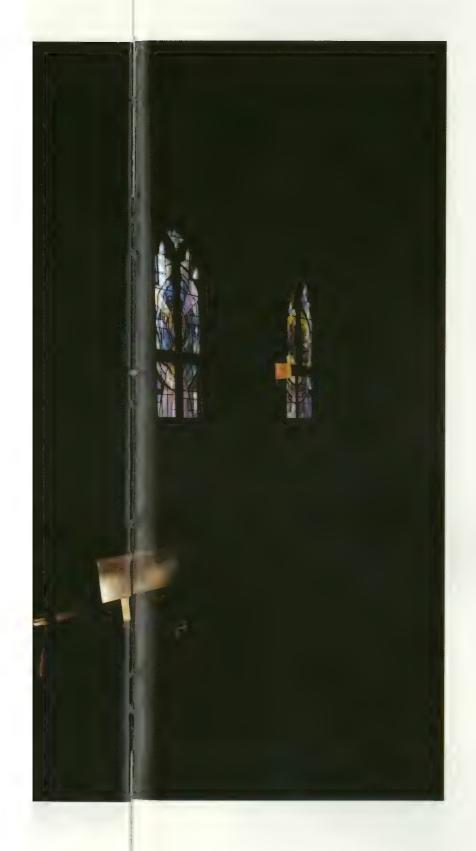




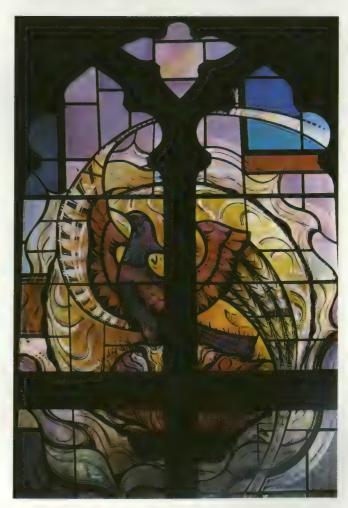
Universiade Pavilion

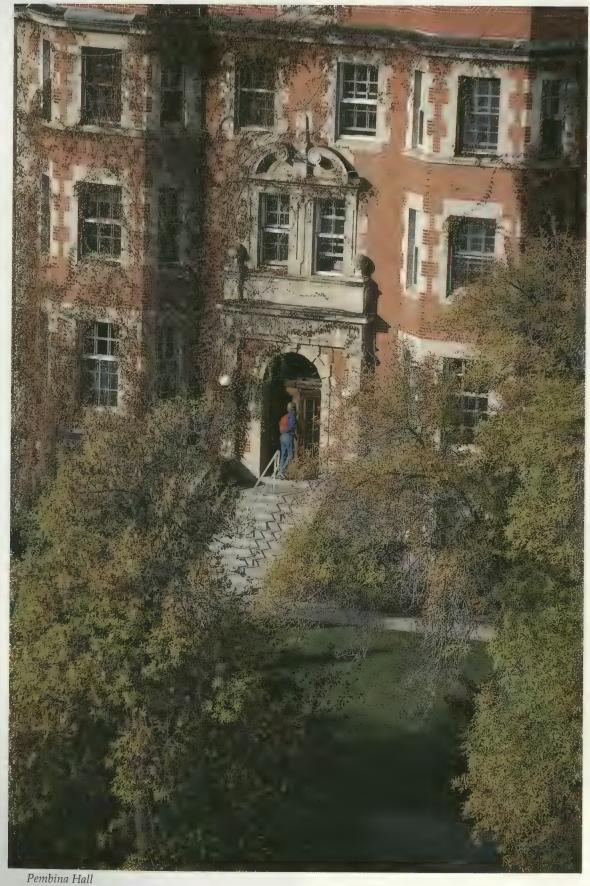


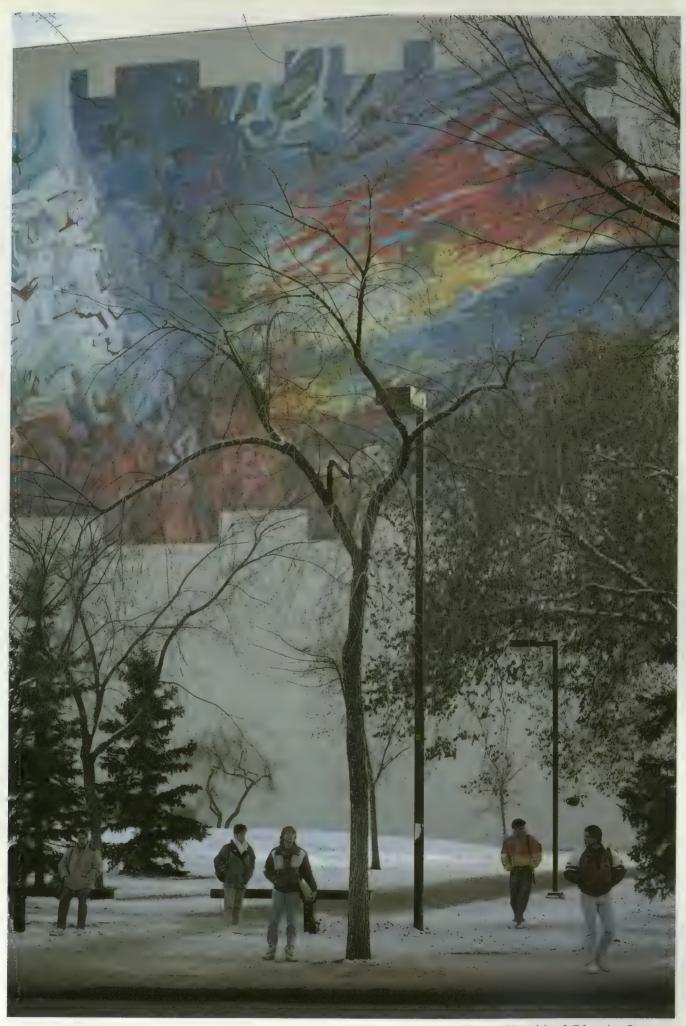
St. Joseph's College Chapel









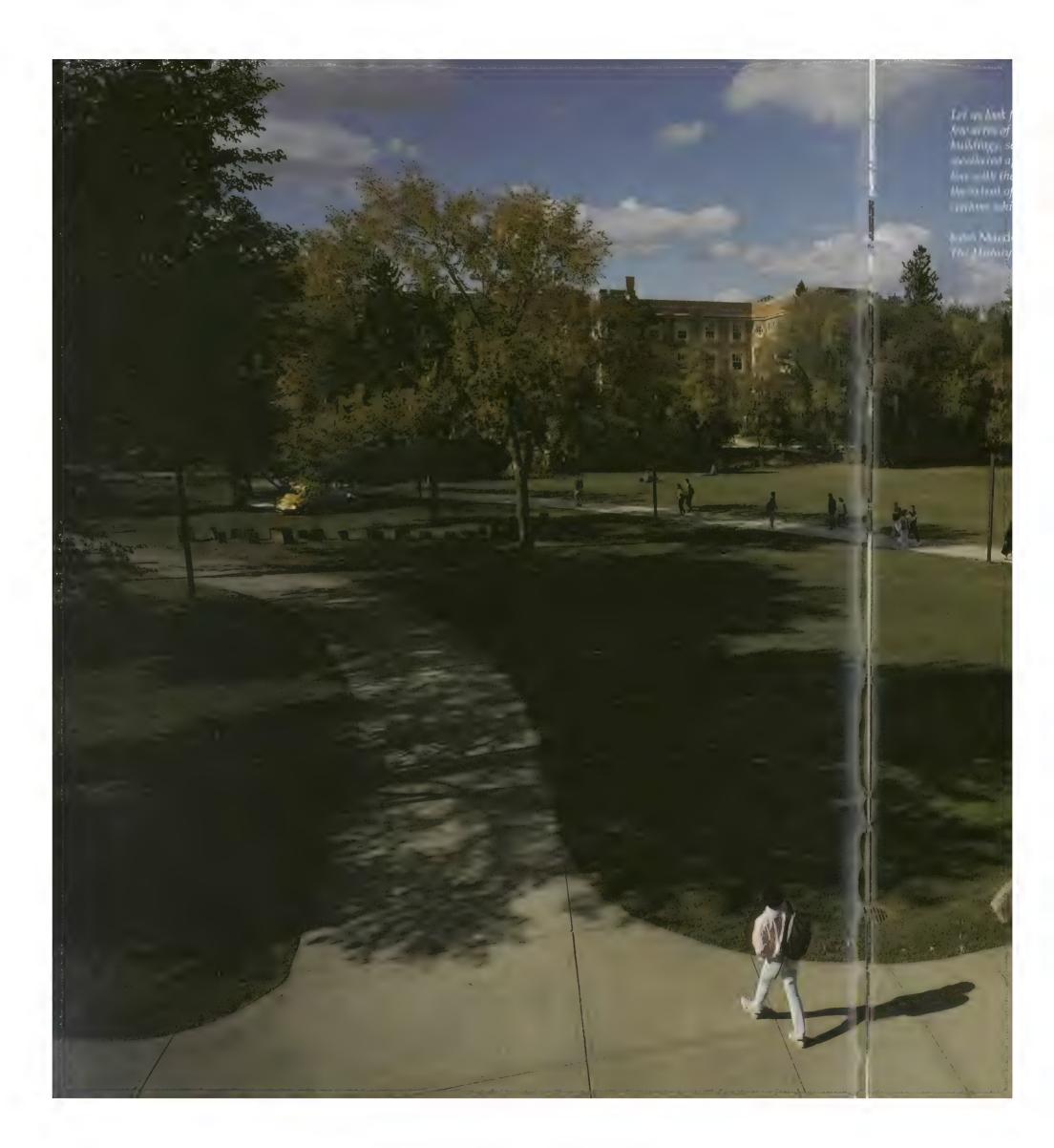


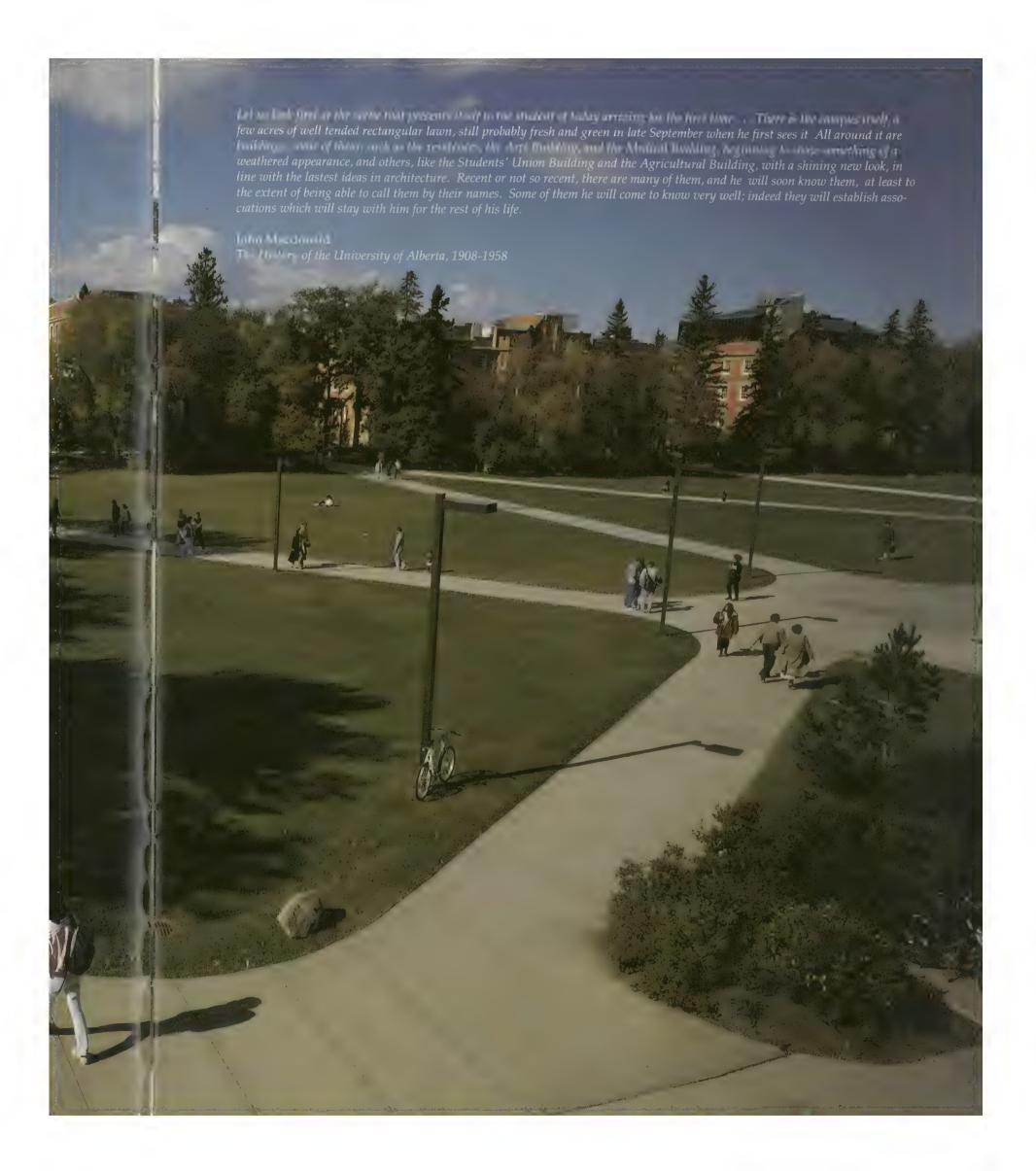
Norman Yates Mural, Education Centre













Medical Building Laboratory, 1948



We took the ground from the beginning that the basis of all real development must be knowledge. We stated a set of problems on which we considered research should be undertaken and presented them to the government of the day. If the University of Alberta flourished and early became recognized as a worthwhile institution, it was because we relentlessly pursued the policy of working at these urgent problems. We did not consider that it was our duty to wait until we were asked to do something.

Henry Marshall Tory May 20, 1936





Mackenzie Health Sciences Centre





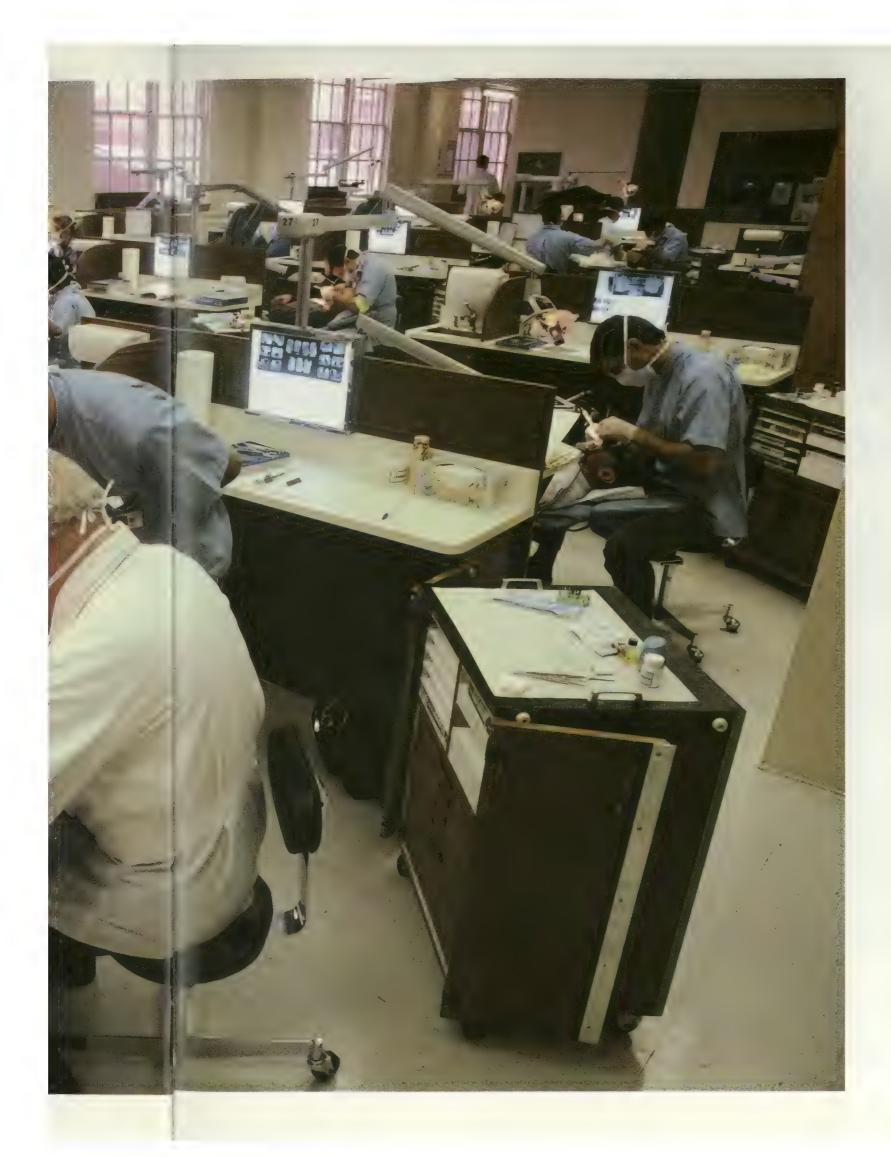
No University is built of bricks and mortar. It stands on the quality of the teaching and research; and the alert, enquiring mind that produces the most effective teaching and most effective research reaches its full flowering only where conditions are favourable.

Board of Governors Report, 1958-1959





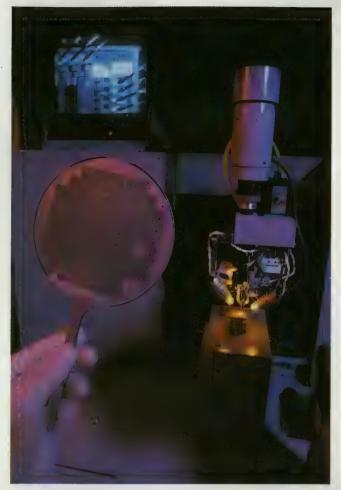






Agriculture and Forestry Centre Greenhouse







November will be remembered for the big snow. The University ran short of coal, but our good friends across the river cleared a road all the way to Beverly, and the boilers kept on boiling. Many incidents, amusing and serious, were reported. The University had the distinction of being the only educational unit in the city, indeed almost the only large institution of any kind, in which work continued as usual, but some of our number arrived on skis. The marks of snowshoes, also, were in evidence near the Medical Building; and the costumes of professors and students alike were various and wonderful.

New Trail, January, 1943



Winter Campus, 1968



Faculte 'Saint-Jean

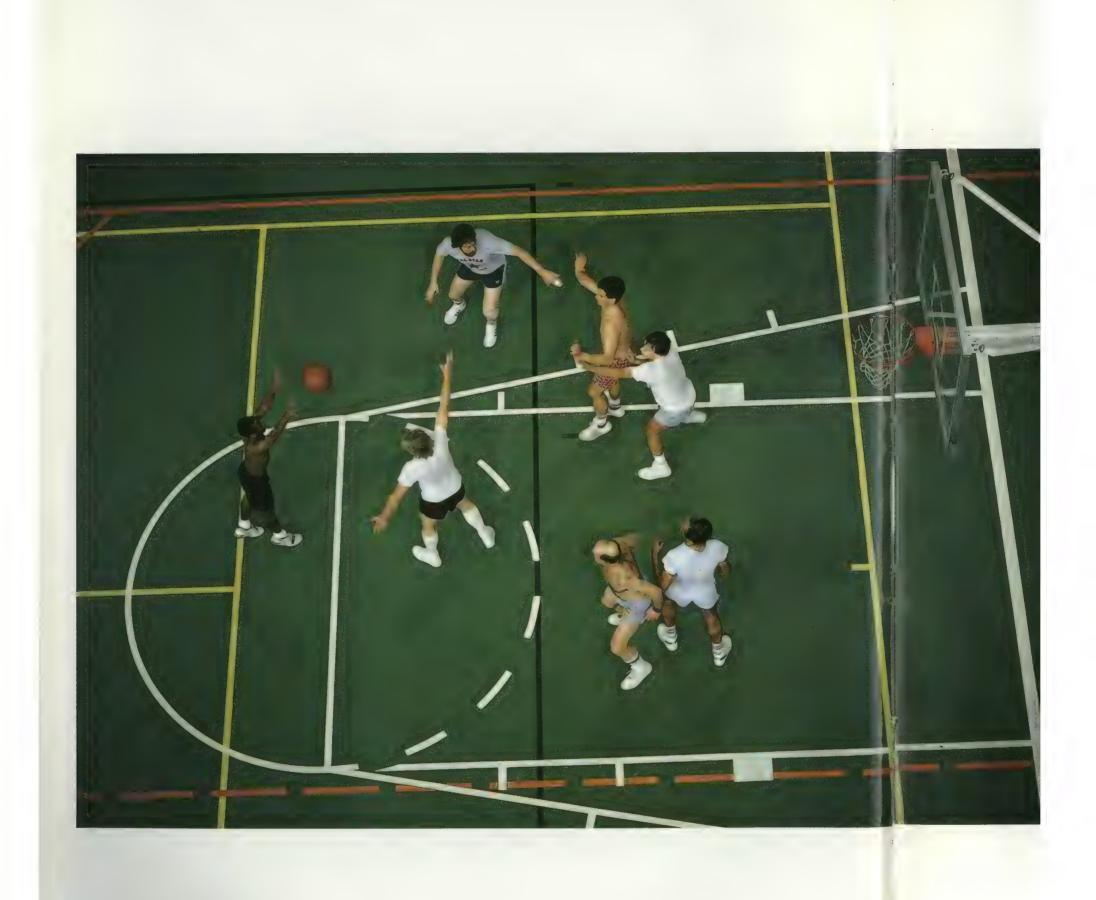
















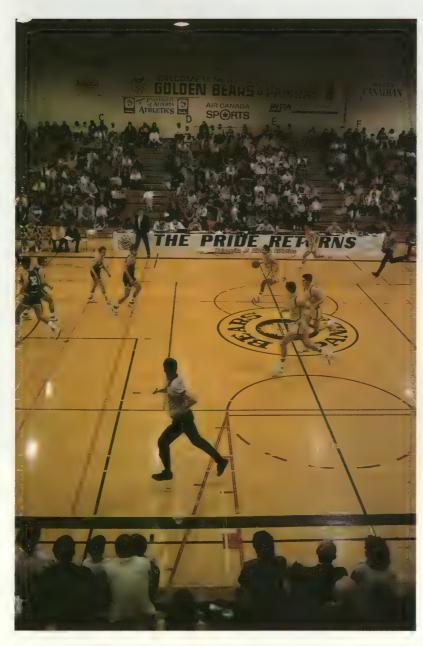


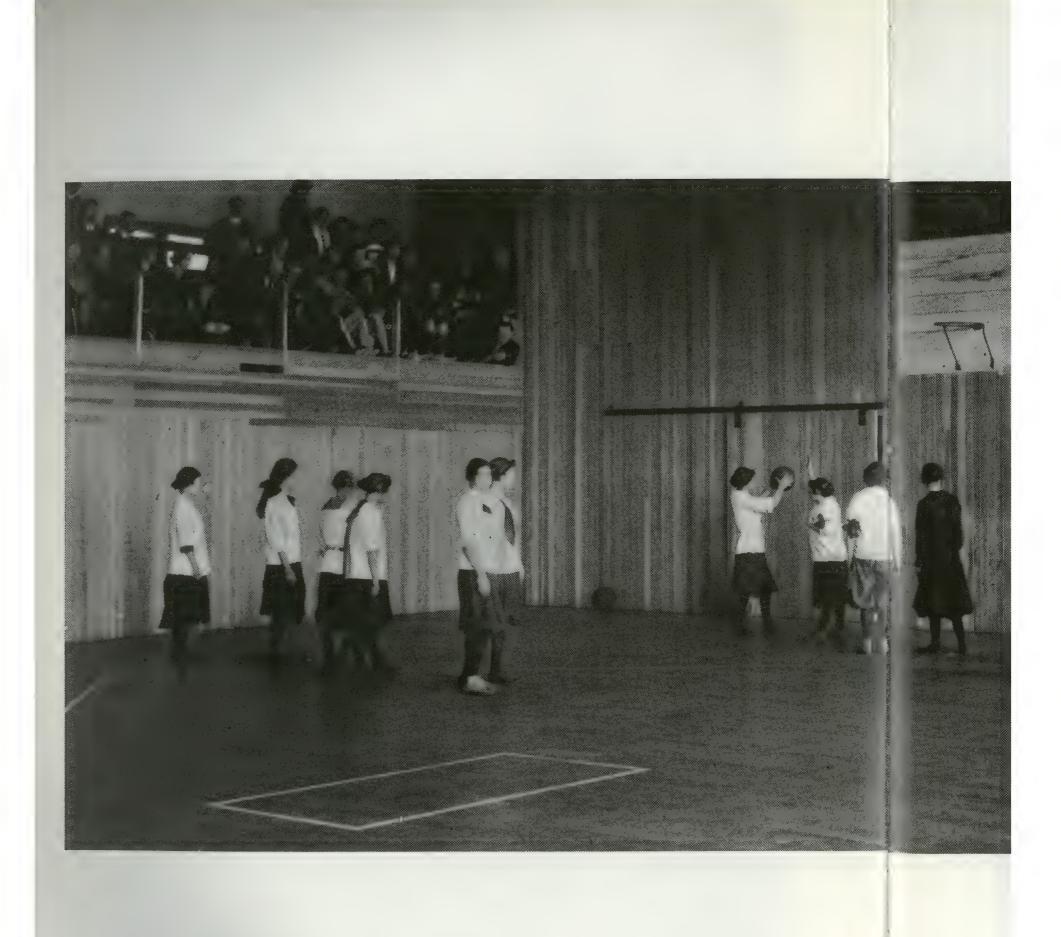


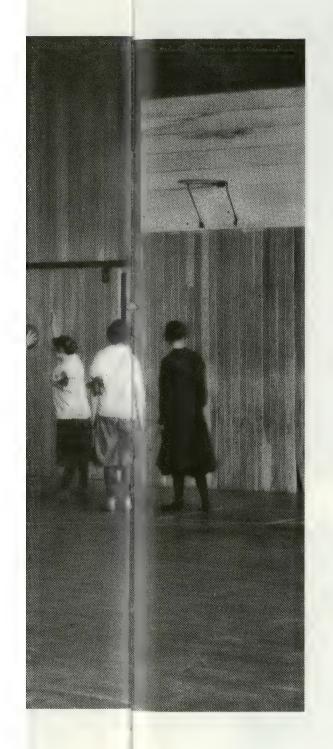


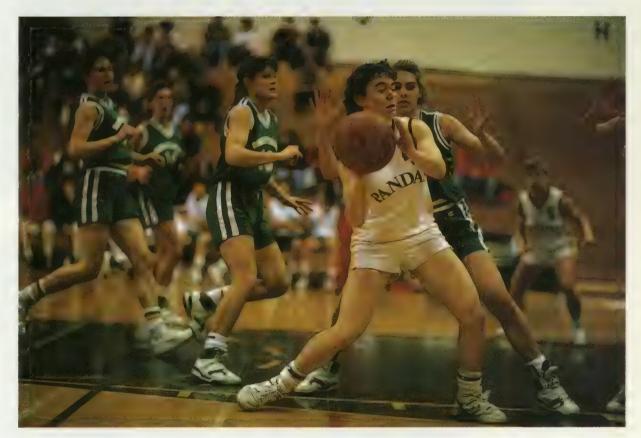
There is no piece of work around the University of Alberta more valued than the turning out year by year of young men and young women who have been given a full opportunity to make the body the fit housing of a trained mind. And more especially if this go in a country where the coincidence of winter with a large part of the college year creates the necessity of adequate provision for indoor athletics.

W.S. Alexander The University of Alberta: A Retrospect 1908-1929











University Rugby Football, 1939





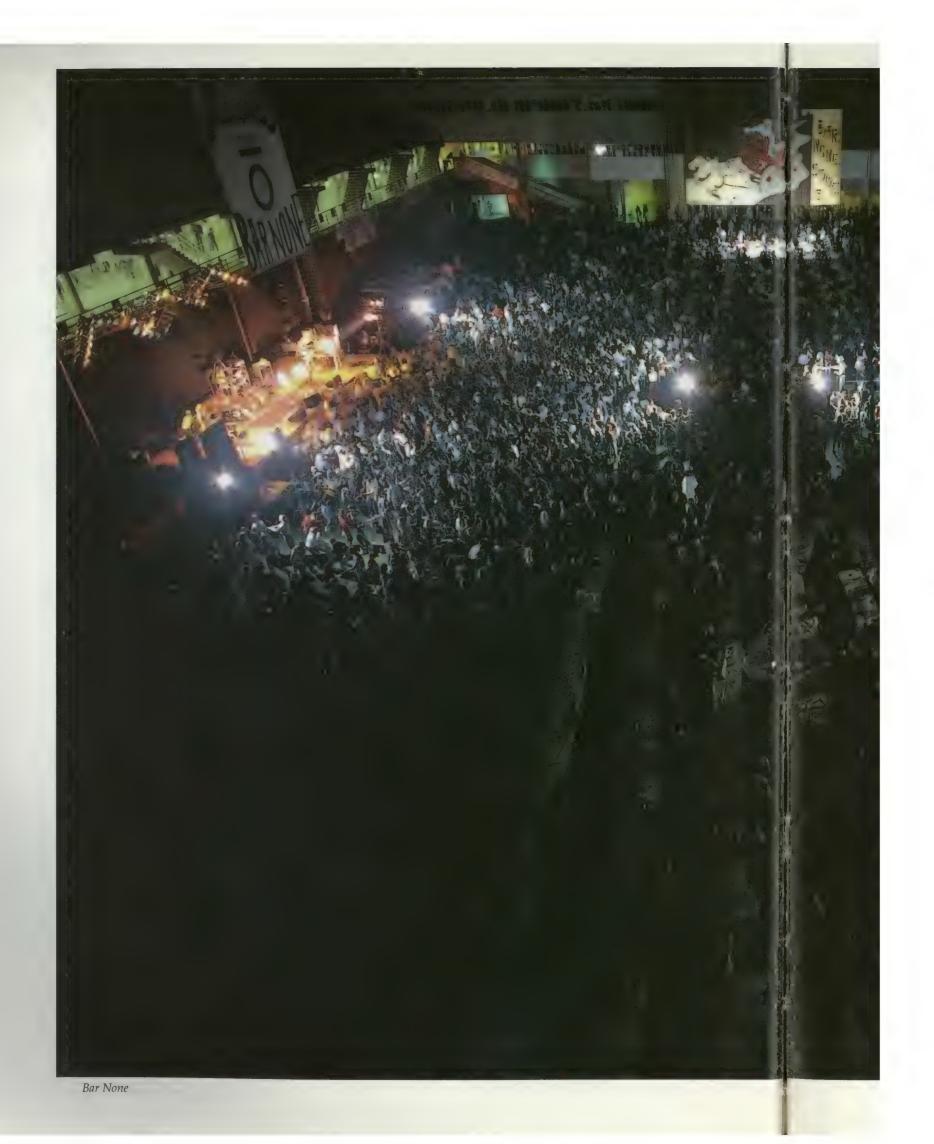


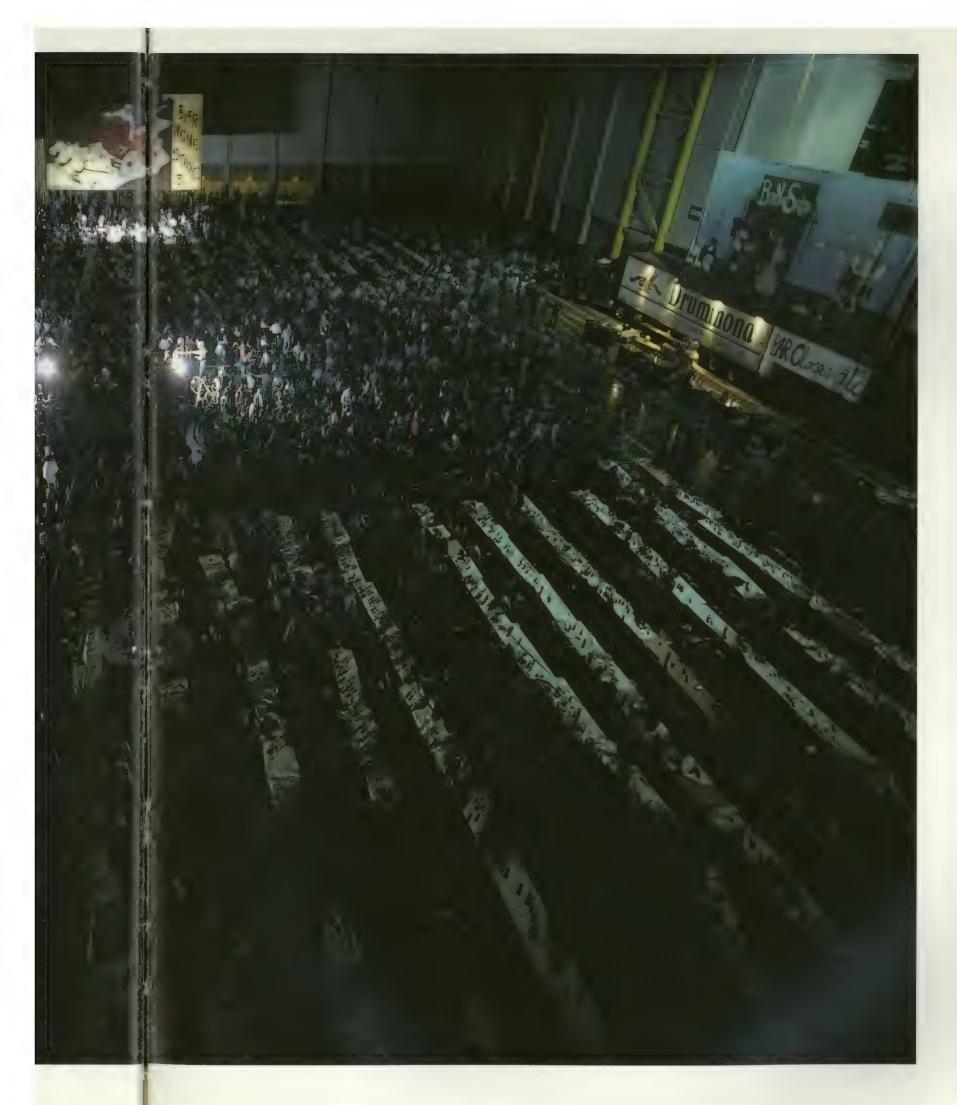


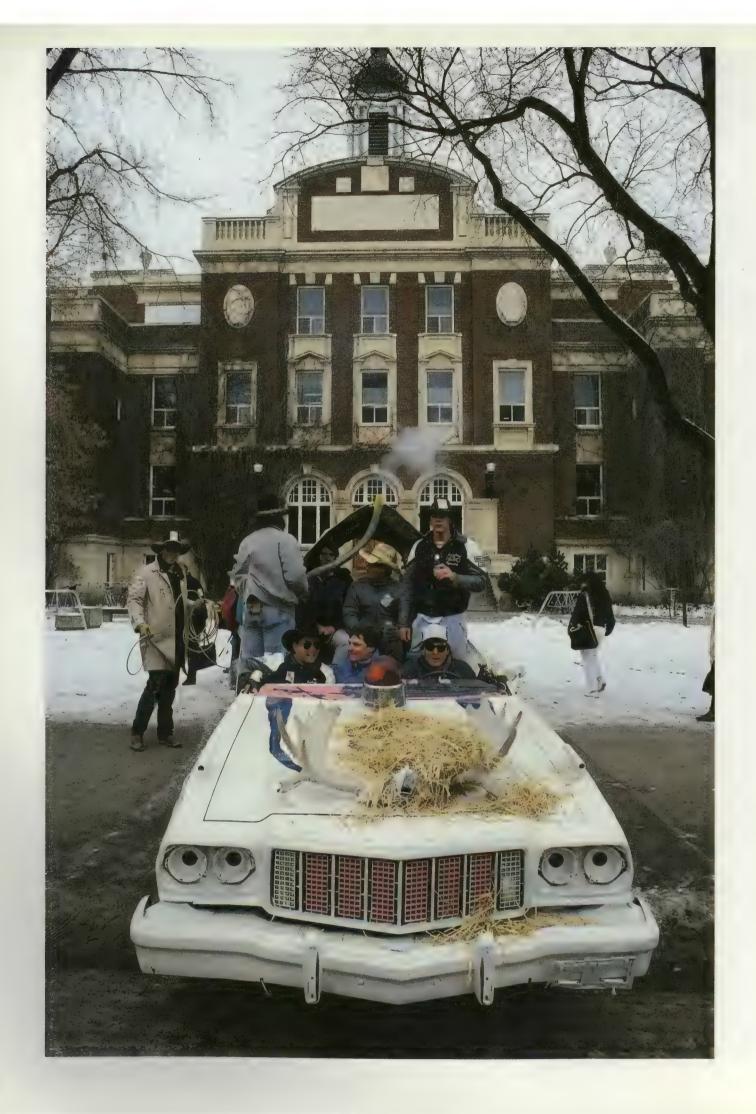


















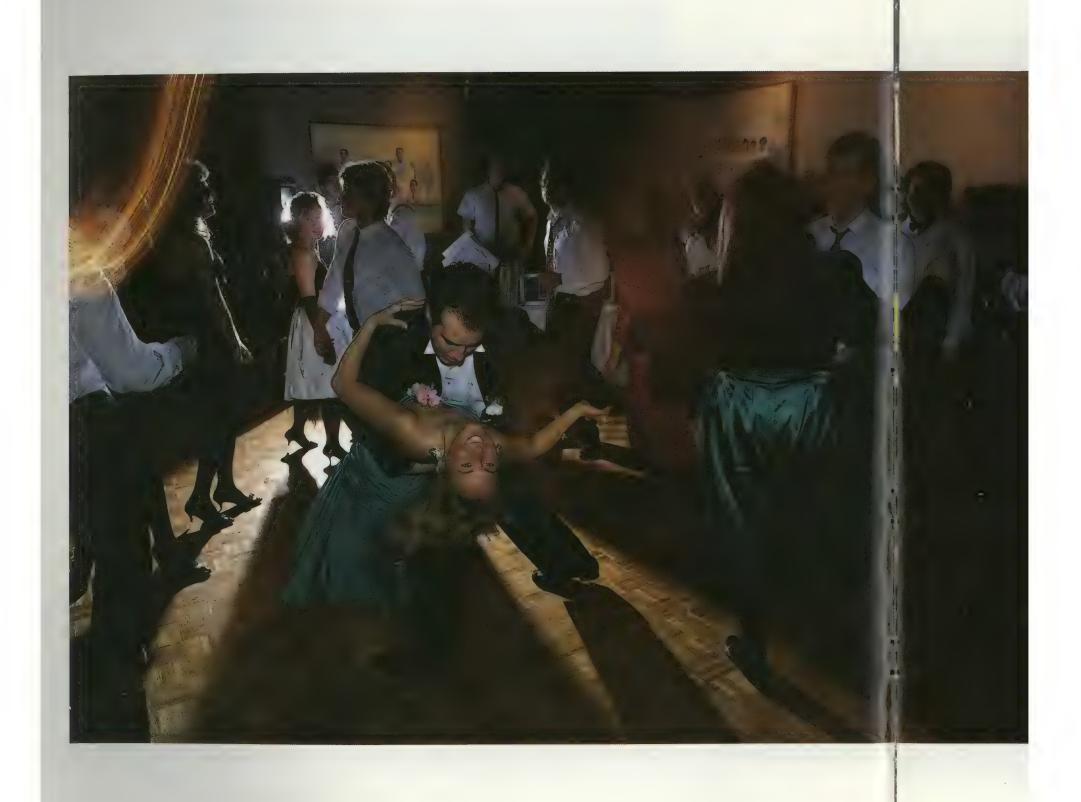
Students' Union Building

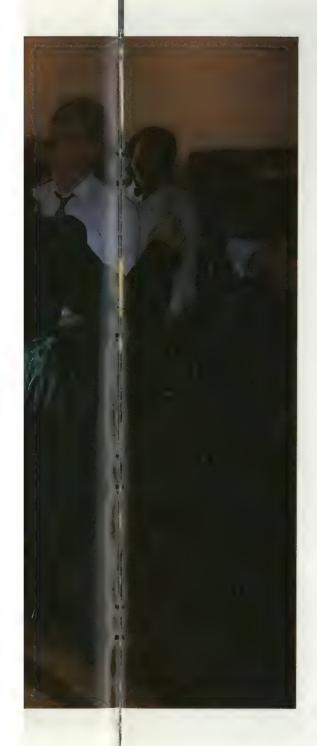






Varsity Tuck Shop, 1930







Freshman Initiation, 1962

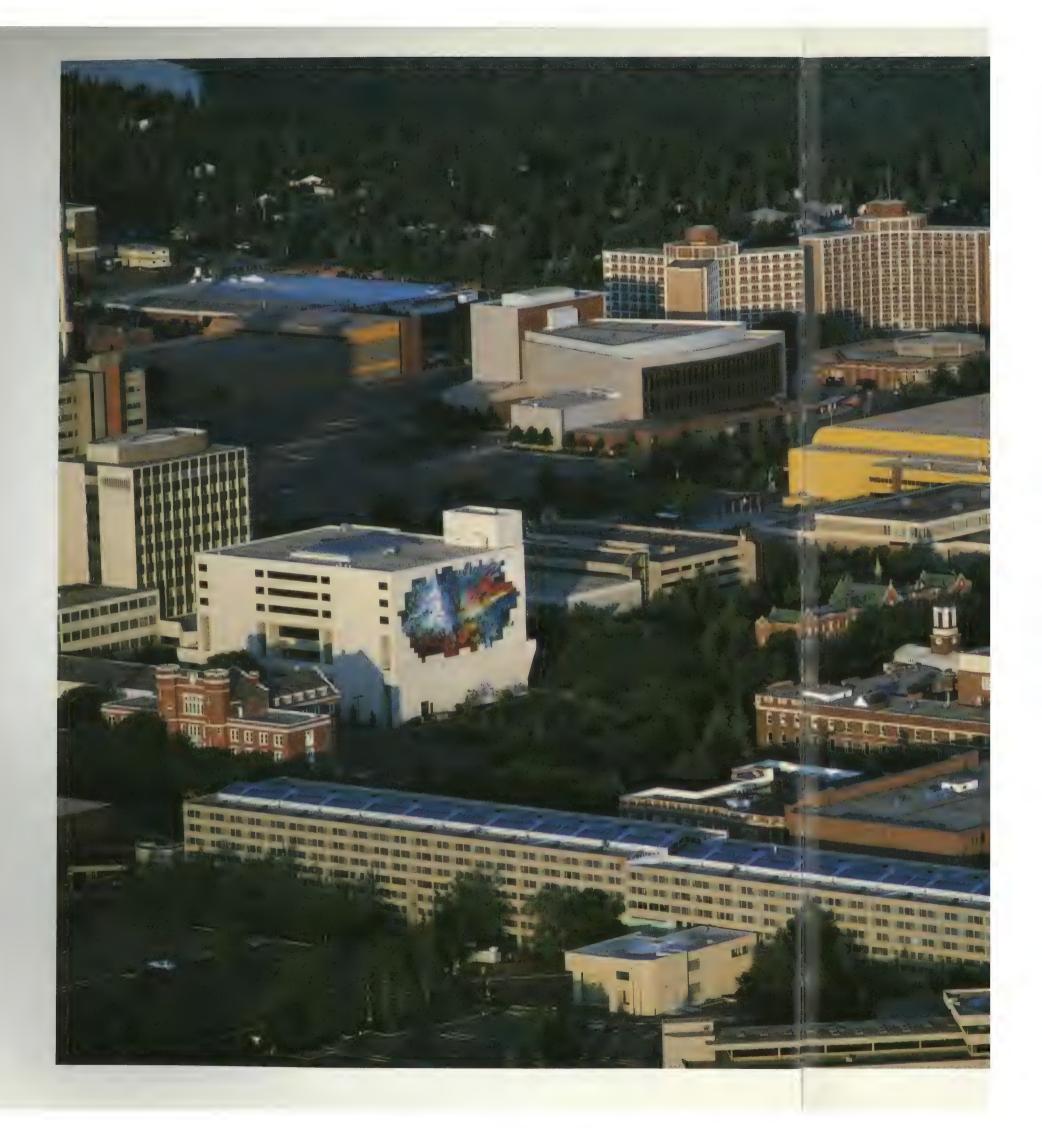


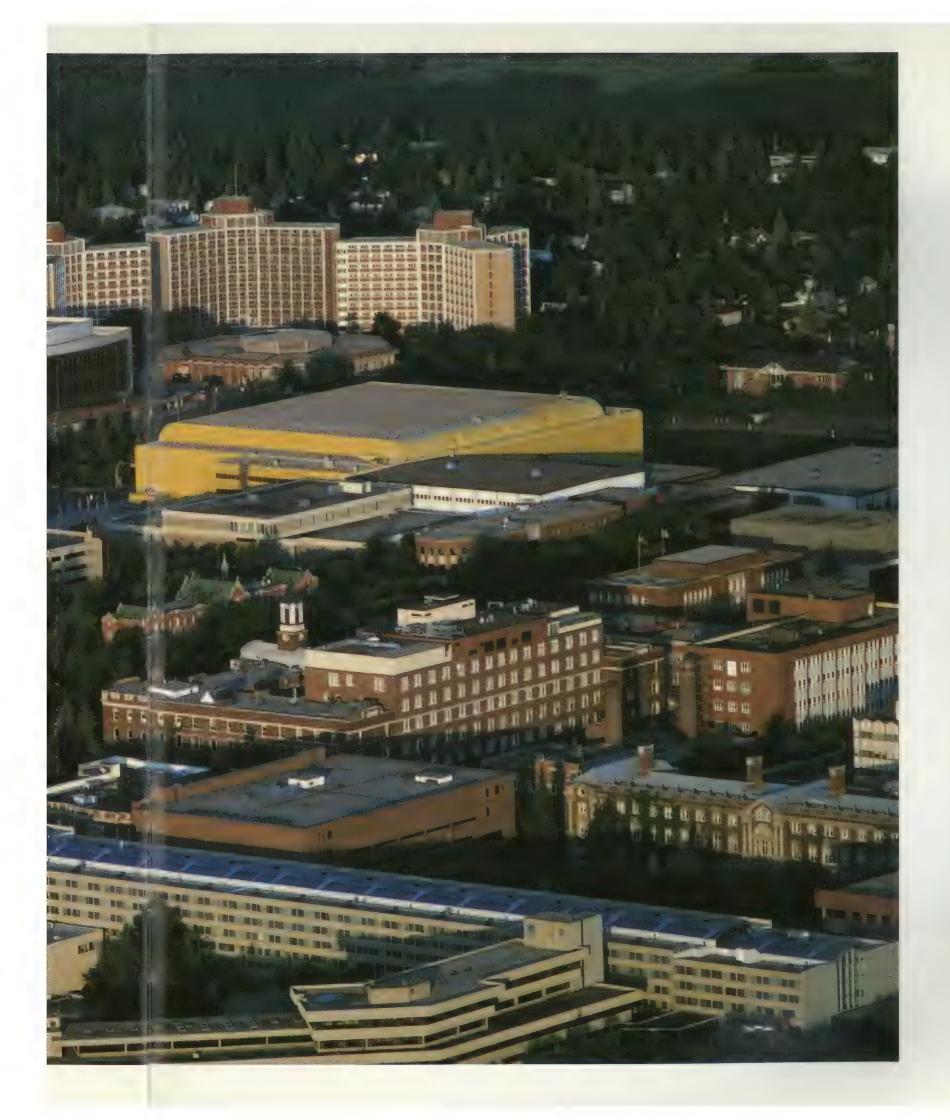


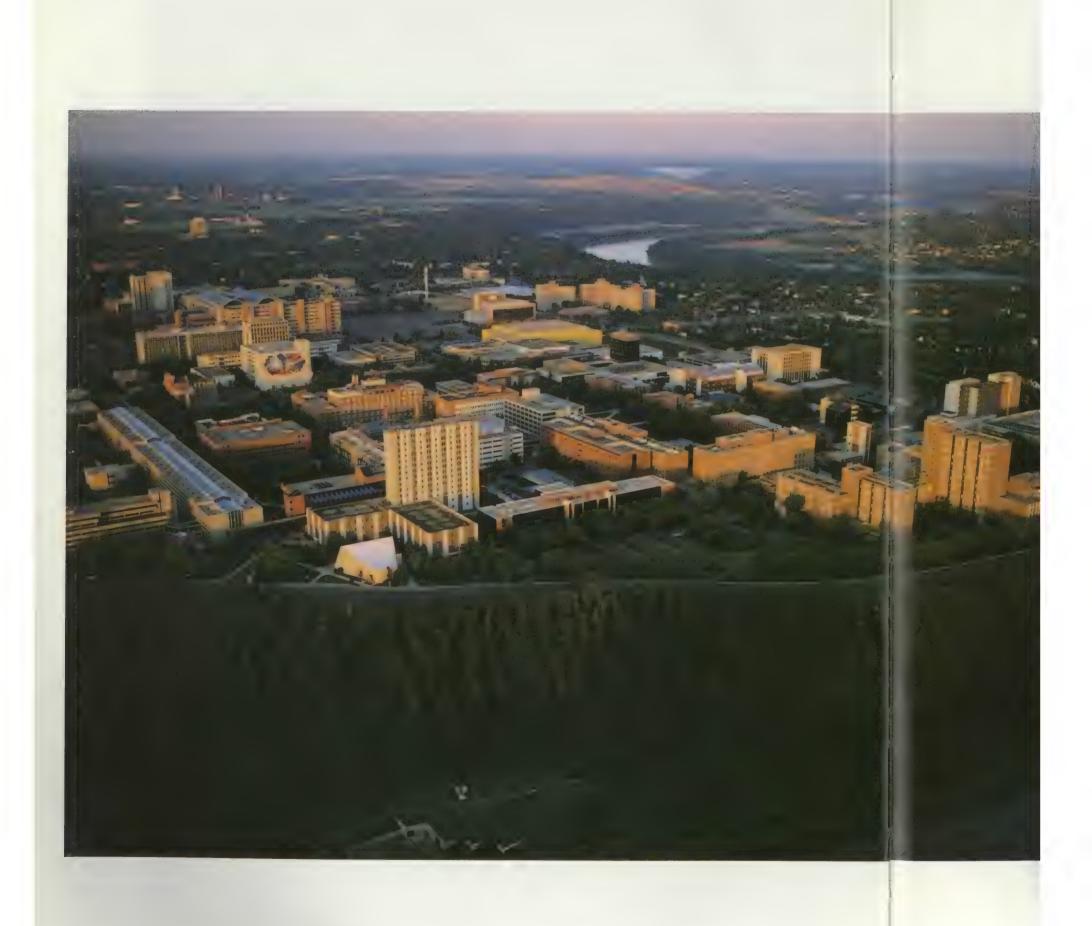
The students seem to have more free time than they used to. Some will get down to studying as soon as possible, but others take until after Christmas, and a few will wait until final exams are near and then plug night and day hoping to get a pass.

Reg Lister My Forty-Five Years on the Campus









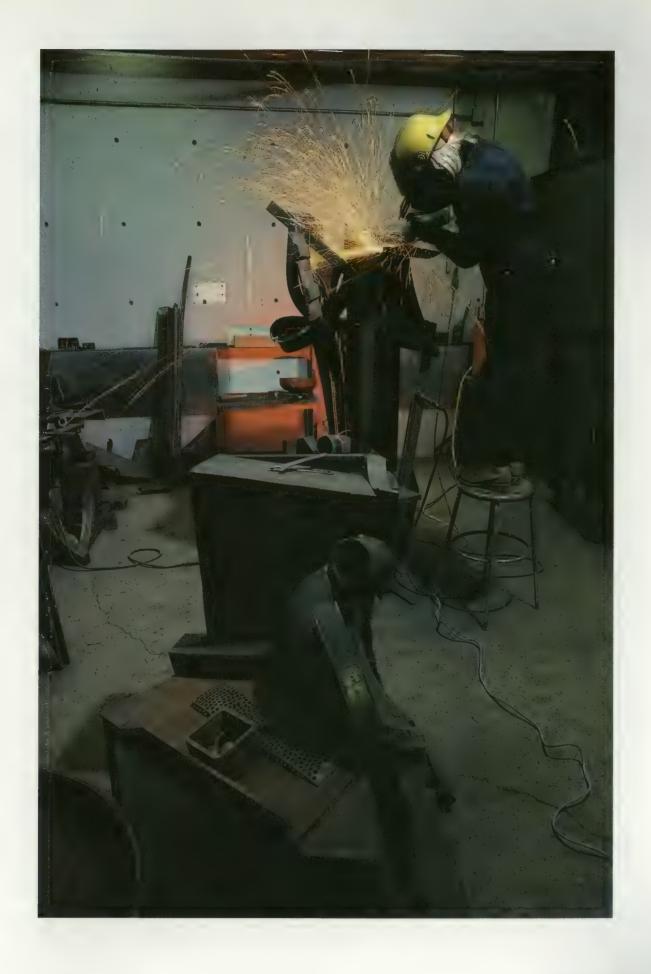


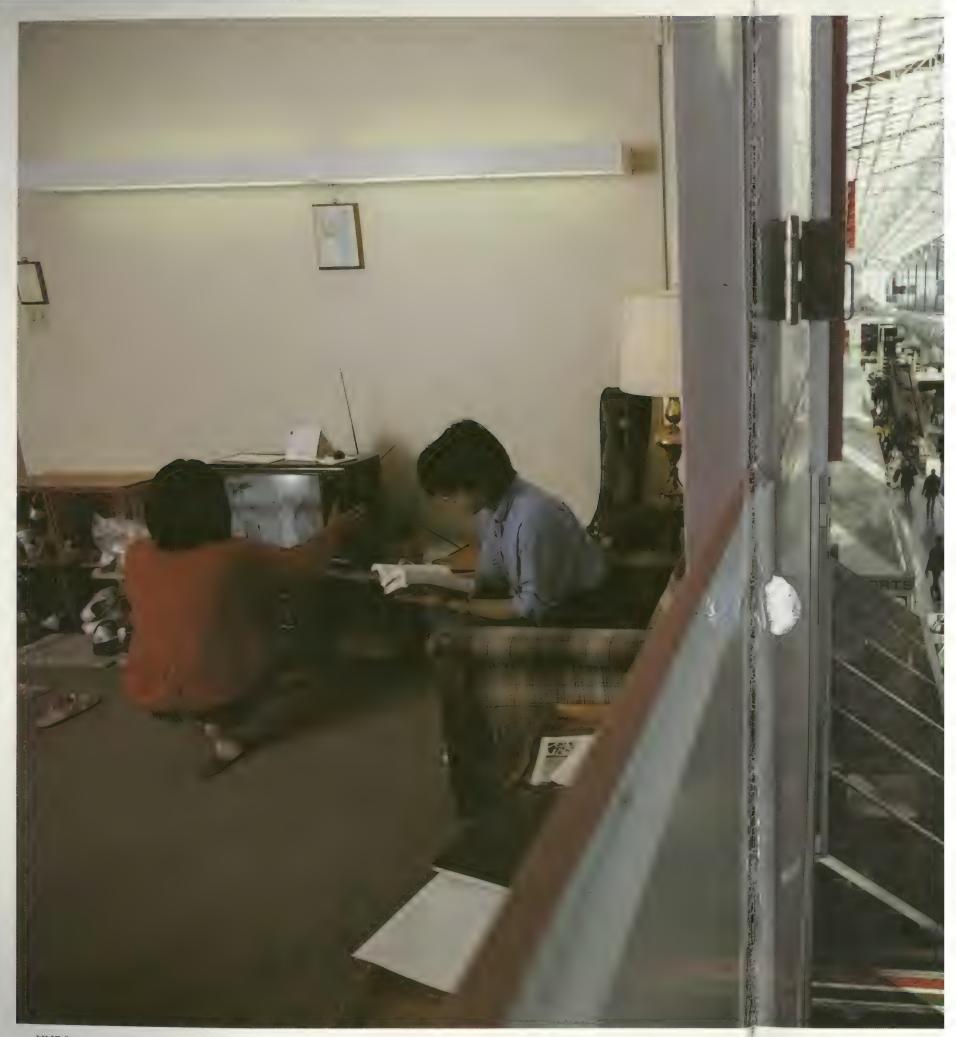
The choice of colors for the University — Green and Gold — are peculiarly adapted for the purpose for which they have been accepted. The choice of this beautiful, and at the same time, infrequent combination was based on an appropriate symbolism . . . the green representing the wide stretches of verdant prairie land flanked by the deep spruce forests of the province . . . while the gold prefigures the golden harvest fields that are Alberta's boast.

Senate minutes, October, 1908









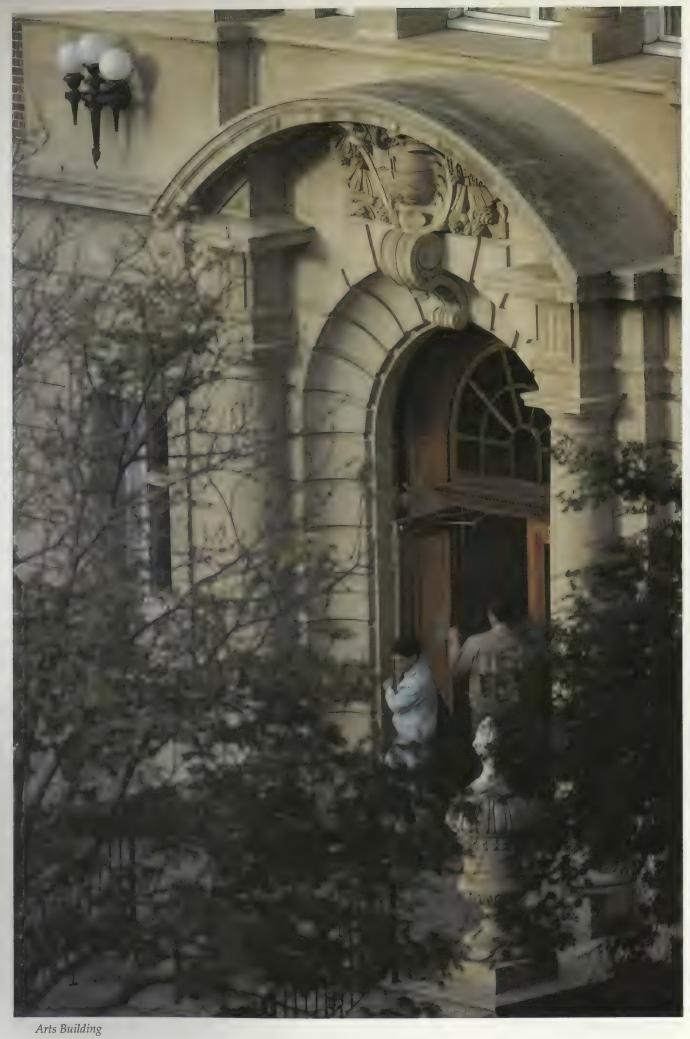
HUB International, Residence and Shopping Mall





Faculty of Business Building





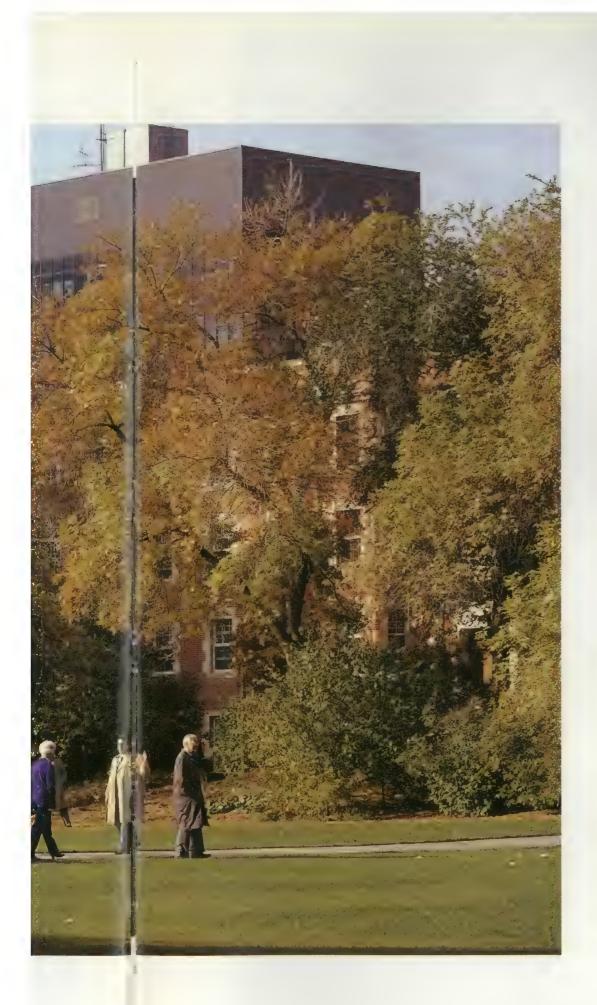








Alumni Reunion Weekend



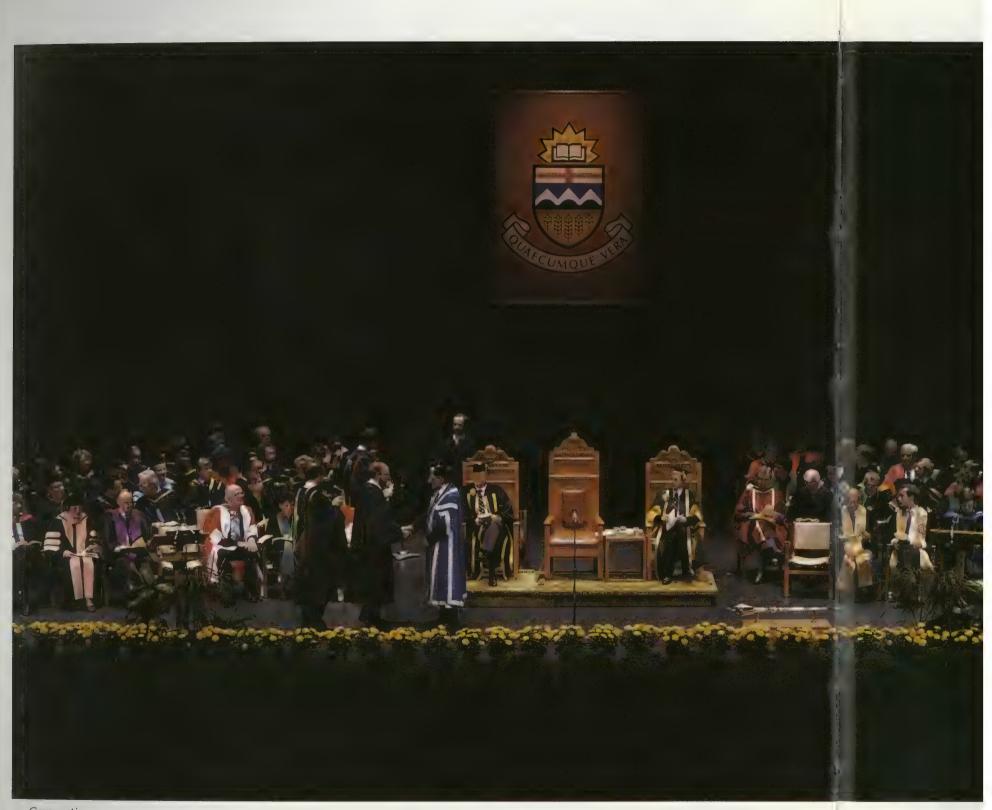
We require from buildings, as from our men, two kinds of goodness: first the doing their practical duty well; then that they be graceful and pleasing in doing it; which last is itself another form of duty.

John Ruskin, quotation in Evergreen and Gold, 1944

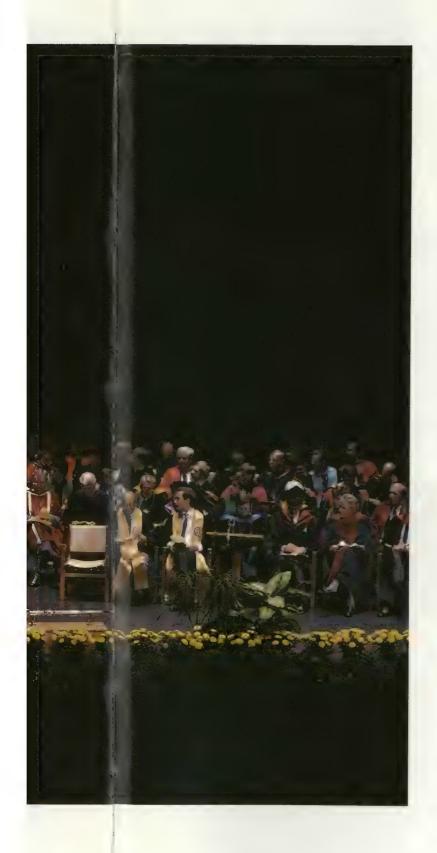








Convocation





I'm very proud of the University of Alberta. It is certainly deserving in its reputation as a centre of excellence, as a world university, there's no doubt about that; you can sense it here today.

Peter Lougheed Convocation Address June 6, 1986









We have shown you how to build good roads, bridges, motor cars, and aeroplanes, but have left you to discover how to use these to bind mankind together in peace and brotherhood.

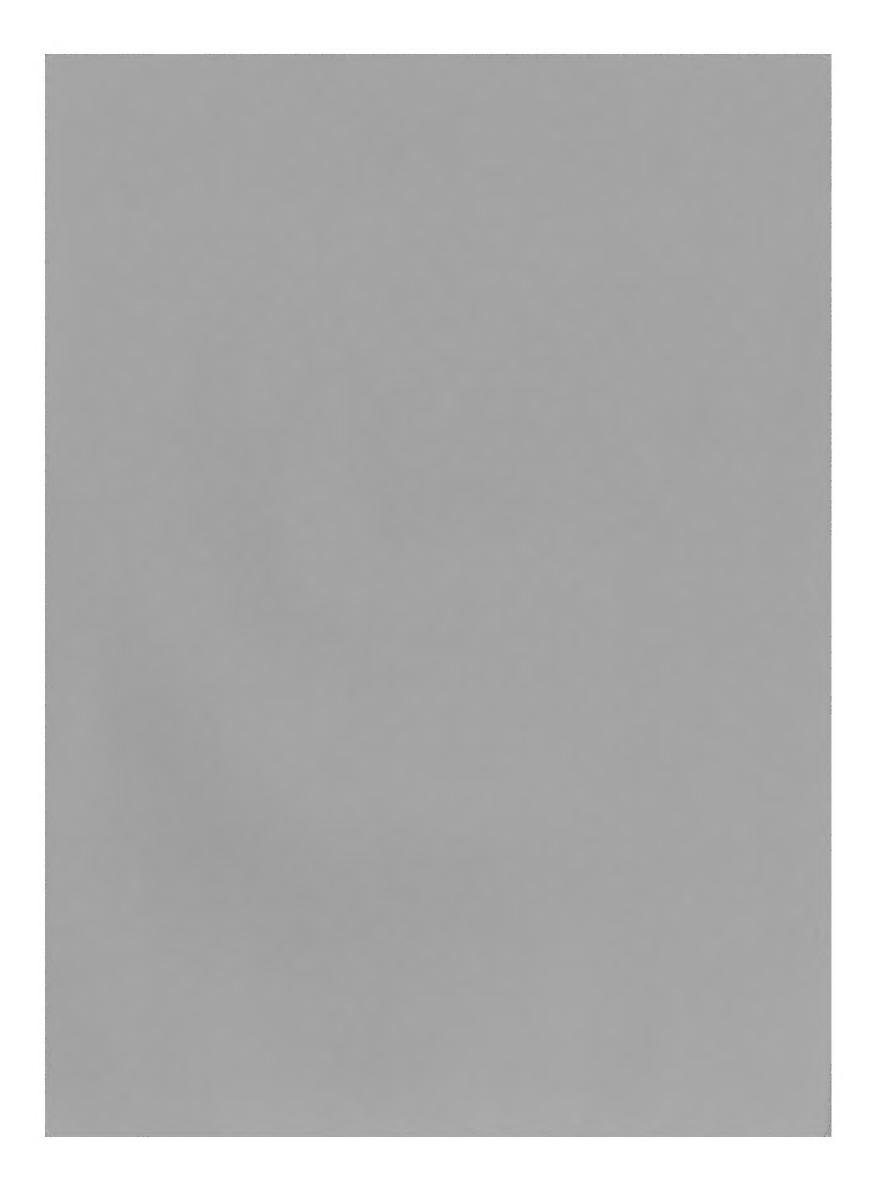
President Robert Newton Report to Convocation, 1949-50











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